

382 Gwynn (John) London and West-
minster Improved, illustrated by plans,
to which is prefixed a discourse on Pub-
lic Magnificence. Printed for the
Author, 1766. With the four plans, &
rough half vellum, scarce.

this valuable old book on the improvement
of London, especially the "West End," is
very uncommon. Its author was an archi-
tect, one of the original members of the
Royal Academy, and a friend of Dr. John-
son, who wrote the dedication in this book.

W. 11
Plans of Westminster
With folding plans
Hyde Park & Grosvenor
L. Bridge

Mr Hart Cotton



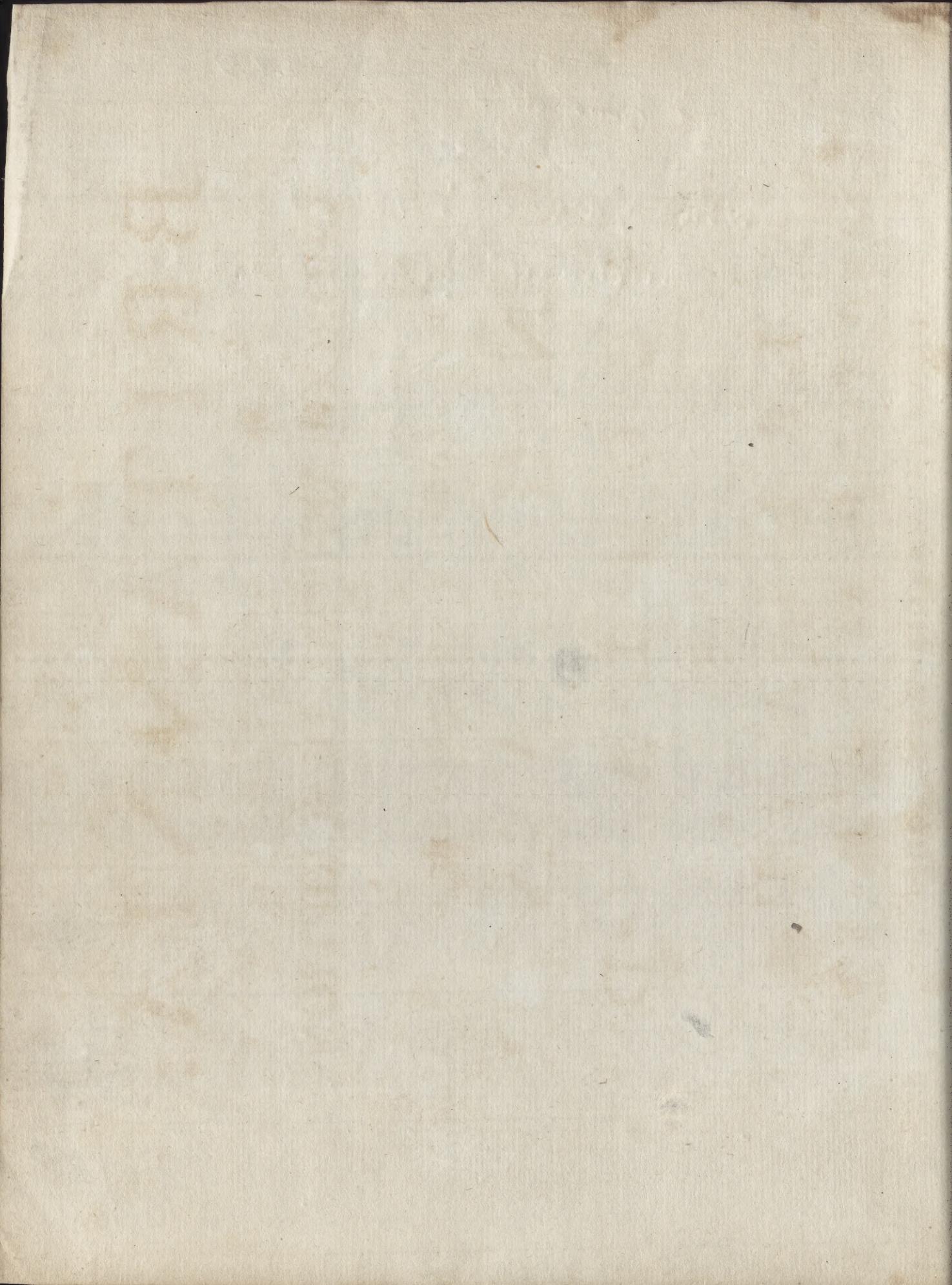
Richard Clark Esq.
Chamberlain of London.

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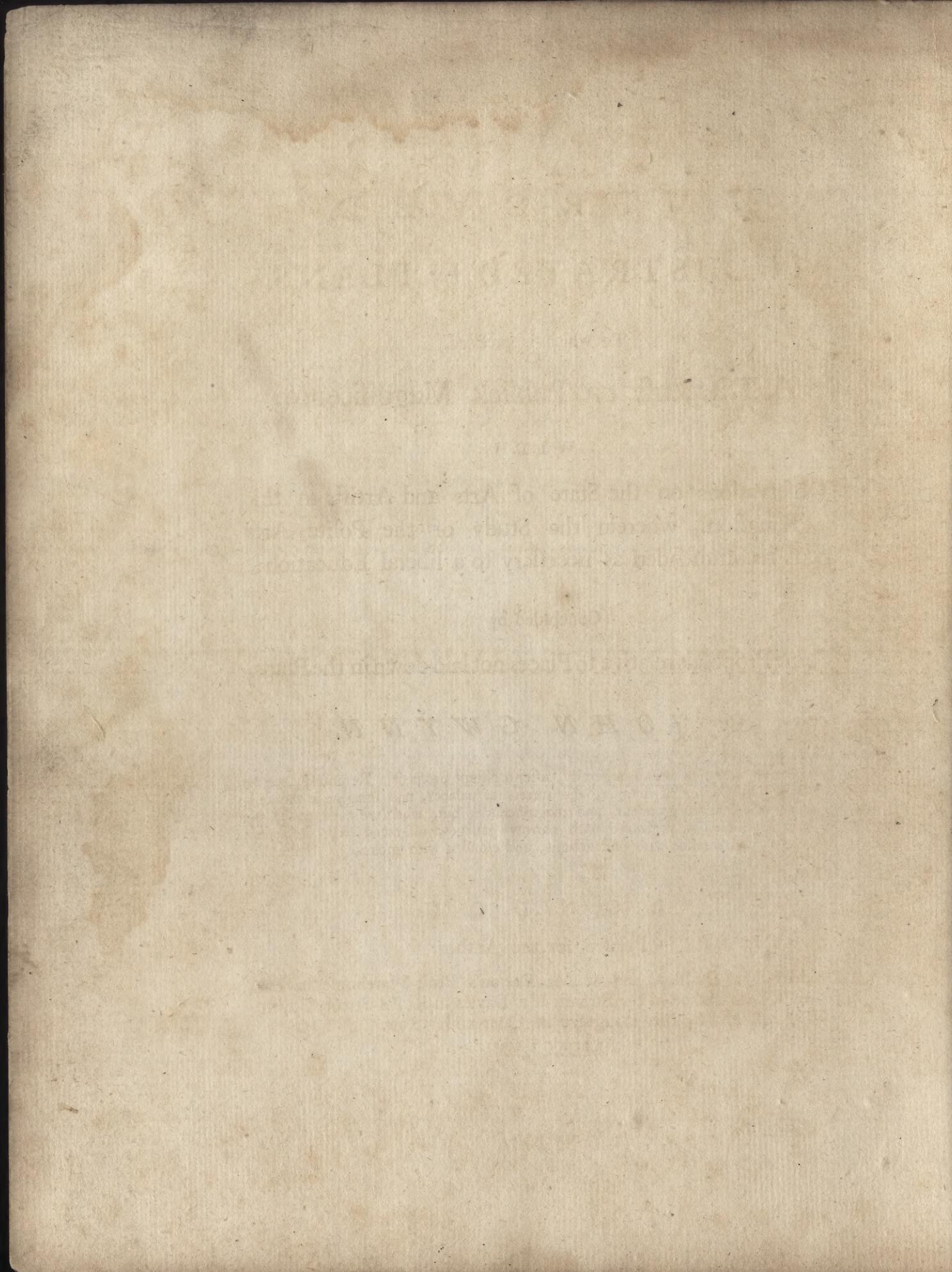
4 hand col'd
plans.

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John Gwynn (d. 1786)
architect, designed Magdalen
Bridge, founder member
of Roy. Acad.



The preface to this work was written
by Dr. Johnson.



LONDON AND WESTMINSTER
IMPROVED,
ILLUSTRATED by PLANS.

To which is prefixed,

A Discourse on Publick Magnificence;

WITH

Observations on the State of Arts and Artists in this Kingdom, wherein the Study of the Polite Arts is recommended as necessary to a liberal Education:

Concluded by

Some Proposals relative to Places not laid down in the Plans.

By *J O H N G W Y N N.*

—like an entrance into a large city, after a distant prospect. Remotely, we see nothing but spires of temples, and turrets of palaces, and imagine it the residence of splendor, grandeur, and magnificence; but, when we have passed the gates, we find it perplexed with narrow passages, disgraced with despicable cottages, embarrassed with obstructions, and clouded with smoke. *Rambler.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for the Author.

Sold by Mr Dodley, and at Mr Dalton's Print-Warehouse in Pall-Mall, Mr Bathoe in the Strand, Mr Davies in Russel-Street, Covent-Garden, and by Mr Longman in Pater-noster-Row.

MDCCLXVI.

T O T H E
K I N G.

S I R,

THE patronage of works which have a tendency towards advancing the happiness of mankind, naturally belongs to great Princes; and publick good, in which publick elegance is comprised, has ever been the object of your Majesty's regard.

In the following pages your Majesty, I flatter myself, will find, that I have endeavoured at extensive and general usefulness. Knowing, therefore, your Majesty's early attention to the polite arts, and more particular affection for the study of architecture, I was encouraged to hope that the work which I now presume to

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lay before your Majesty, might be thought not unworthy your Royal Favour; and that the protection which your Majesty always affords to those who mean well, may be extended to,

S I R,

Your Majesty's

most dutiful subject,

and most obedient

and most humble servant,

JOHN G W Y N N.

P R E F A C E.

IN the observations annexed to a small plan (reduced from that of Sir Christopher Wren's for rebuilding the city of London after the fire in 1666*) the author of the following work sufficiently intimated the necessity of a general plan of the whole capital, improved and divided into proper districts, the execution of which improvements he proposed should be put under the direction of fit and able persons, who should be empowered by authority, to regulate the scattered and confused appearance they make, to restore the ruined parts to beauty, and fix the proper mode of new improvements; by which means not only the value of private property would be considerably increased, but these improvements become conducive to health as well as publick convenience.

In consequence of this proposal, and soon after its publication, the author actually began a plan of such improvements as appeared to him beautiful, necessary and useful, but other avocations prevented his carrying it on at that time, and it has been a matter of surprize to him that no one has undertaken so useful a work in so long a time, especially as the rage of building has been carried to so great a height for several years past, as to have increased this metropolis in an astonishing manner. For want of such a publick direction, those very buildings which might have been easily rendered

* Published in the year 1749. its

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its greatest ornament, are a melancholy proof of the necessity there was of adopting a well regulated plan. The violent passion for building having continued to increase, and it appearing that no such plan was likely to be undertaken by any body else, the author resumed his original intention, and he flatters himself it will not even at this time be unserviceable or unacceptable to the publick. He has therefore published four plates of the principal part of his original design, and if they should meet with approbation his intention is to render it a compleat work, by extending his thoughts to every part of the whole city and suburbs.

After the unaccountable treatment the noble plan of Sir Christopher Wren met with from the interested views of ignorant, obstinate, designing men, (notwithstanding it had the sanction of the King and Parliament) who by rejecting it did an irreparable injury to the city of London, the author cannot hope to see a scheme so much inferior to that, adopted in the manner he could wish; he doubts not but it will by many be treated as Utopian, a work of supererogation, and that the old cry of private property and the infringement on liberty will be objected and urged with the greatest vehemence, in opposition to the good effects he proposes. In defence therefore of his design, and in order to obviate, as much as possible, every objection which may be made to it, the author declares and hopes that every thinking person will agree with him, that the future good arising from the major part of his proposal will greatly overbalance the present evil. For although people are often clamorous against the present expence, as if the money laid out for such purposes was totally

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funk and annihilated, if they would but consider, it is only the changing of hands and circulating so much dead money, that, perhaps, was otherwise useless to its possessor, and may probably in time return to its original owner ; the inconvenience then becomes only temporary, and its application is a very considerable advantage to the public. It is very certain that no publick good ever was proposed to which interested individuals have not objected, but it certainly does not follow, that for this reason publick good is not to be attended to at all. We are not without instances of villages, nay whole towns, having been removed for the convenience and emolument of private persons ; then why not adopt the improvements here laid down, (at least such as are most necessary) wherein the good of the community is so essentially concerned ? The fire of London was undoubtedly a most deplorable evil to the sufferers, and yet no body will deny, that (bad as the present state of the city is) it was productive of very great advantages. For the same reason, the making rivers navigable and publick roads convenient, are liable to equal objections ; such works are certainly often injurious to individuals, but their utility is a publick benefit, and posterity, as well as those who carry such improvements into execution, will reap considerable advantages from them ; but for the further illustration of this proposition the reader is referred to the following discourse on the utility and advantage of public magnificence ; the reasons which are there given for the necessity of its being adopted, it is hoped will plead a sufficient excuse for the liberties which are taken with respect to private property.

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The author is aware that it will appear upon the first inspection of his plan, that notwithstanding he has complained that the metropolis is already over built, he himself has laid down the plans of many more new buildings. To obviate this objection, the reader is desired to consider the many internal improvements which he has proposed ; and the necessity of providing dwellings for those persons who would be obliged to remove in consequence of such considerable alterations ; the greatest error that has been committed, is that of extending the metropolis to too great a length ; nor can we say where it will stop, if builders are suffered to proceed thus wildly without direction, as they have hitherto done ; but if attention was paid to the widening rather than the lengthening the town, it would certainly render the whole more compact, be more convenient for the inhabitants in every advantage of situation, and consequently equally healthy and commodious.

In settling a plan of large streets for the dwellings of the rich, it will be found necessary to allot smaller spaces contiguous, for the habitations of useful and laborious people, whose dependance on their superiors requires such a distribution ; and by adhering to this principal a political advantage will result to the nation ; as this intercourse stimulates their industry, improves their morals by example, and prevents any particular part from being the habitation of the indigent alone, to the great detriment of private property.

The author naturally supposes that many of the proposed improvements will be looked upon by some as extravagant and visionary, and therefore had better been totally

totally suppressed; but to obviate, in some sort, the force of such objection, he begs leave to observe, that they are not laid down as positive improvements to be made at this time, but rather what ought to have been attended to by the original builders and proprietors of lands; and consequently, as a caution to all such as may have the conducting and directing future buildings; that regularity, convenience and propriety, may hereafter take place of unskilfulness and disorder.

It is not improbable that some persons will also think the several schemes propos'd are impracticable, or that they may be of little or no utility if put into execution; in this case, the author, however partial he may be to his own designs, will be much obliged to any one who will point out his errors, or give the publick some more useful and practicable plans of his own, as he is firmly perswaded that a work of this kind is absolutely necessary, and cannot help thinking that if his own hints, or those of others upon the same subject, are not timely attended to, that publick negligence will unavoidably produce publick deformity, and publick deformity must certainly produce publick disgrace.

Internal improvements should certainly be first attended to before so many new foundations are suffered to be laid; as it is highly improper and prejudicial to go on building in one place, to the utter ruin of others; and this often without the least connection with what is already built.

In the present state of building, the finest part of the town (where only real improvement can be hoped,) is left to the mercy of capricious, ignorant persons, and the vast number of buildings, now carrying on, are

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only so many convincing proofs of the necessity of adopting the following, or some better hints, in order to convince the world that blundering is not the only characteristic of English builders.

One inconvenience deserves particular notice. Some streets that would naturally open into the country are shut up and darkened by houses built cross them at the end next the fields. This ought to be avoided, as well for the sake of convenience as of elegance, in the streets which shall be raised on the ground yet unoccupied, between the present buildings and the new road from Paddington to Islington, which in this work has always been considered as the great boundary or line for restraining and limiting the rage of building. A stop ought also to be put to the practice of erecting irregular groups of houses at the extremities of the town, an evil which if continued will make this metropolis more irregular if possible than it is. The act of parliament directs, that no building be erected for the future within fifty feet of the New-Road, but some people, in order to evade this judicious clause, have ingeniously contrived to build houses at that distance, but then to make themselves amends they take care to occupy the intermediate space, which was intended to disencumber the road, by a garden, the wall of which comes close upon it, and entirely defeats the original intention. This practice, and the mean appearance of the backs of the houses*, offices, and hovels, will in time render the approaches to the capital so many scenes of confusion and deformity, extremely unbecoming the

* An example of this absurdity evidently appears in that heap of buildings lately erected from Oxford-Road to Hyde-Park Corner, whose back-fronts are seen from the Park.

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character of a great and opulent city. Certainly the fronts of all buildings should be as conspicuous as possible, and therefore the before-mentioned practice is absurd; on the contrary, if the environs were properly regulated by a judicious disposition, a most elegant line would be formed round the metropolis; and the adjacent fields compose a beautiful lawn, and make an agreeable finish to the extream parts of the town.

Upon the whole, if among the number of improvements proposed, any one of them should be judged worthy of being put into execution, it will in some measure recompence the trouble and fatigue the author has undergone in the prosecution of this work; and he will think himself sufficiently repaid in finding that he has not been labouring in vain, or given an erroneous opinion of what he thinks might or ought to have been done.

The state of the arts and artists in this kingdom being in a great measure dependant upon publick works of magnificence and elegance, it was judged not improper or foreign to the present design, to give some account of them. How the author has succeeded he cannot pretend to determine; he has carefully avoided giving offence by becoming particular, and as he has avoided bestowing personal encomiums, so he has likewise avoided personal censure; and as he entered into this part of the work with a good design, he hopes it will be a sufficient apology to say, that it was well intended.

The author concludes this preface with a grateful acknowledgment to those friends who have been publick-spirited enough to assist him in the prosecution of this work, without which it must have been much more imperfect than it is.

C O N T E N T S.

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I N T R O.

INTRODUCTION.

WHEN historians give us the rise, progress and declension of any state, they generally relate its fall to have proceeded from some political error in government, or from luxury; a very vague and undetermined expression, which if it signifies excesses created by inordinate desires, stimulated by riches, has been justly marked as the vice of a nation. But if in the place of it we substitute delicacy, we shall find it the great source of the liberal arts, and of every improvement not immediately necessary to life.

Thus it becomes a promoter of industry and ingenious labour, and finds employment for those superfluous hands that can be spared from agriculture, &c. and while the hand of affluence thus affords the means of subsistence to the ingenious artisan, it finds employment for itself, without which life would become a burden.

Suppose a colony of emigrants first settling in any climate, the calls of nature are few. Building huts, and tillage, are the first objects of their attention; and their cloathing the skins of beasts. These supply them with food, and defend them from the inclemencies of the seasons, until encreasing in numbers, and their improvements advancing equally, their lands produce more than they consume, and they are able to supply the wants of their neighbours. This introduces commerce and navigation. The demands for exportation stimulate the manufacturer, wealth arises, and artificial wants encrease; the rich inhabitants look out for the means of ease, pleasure and distinction; these produce the polite arts, and the original formation of huts is now converted into architecture; painting and sculpture contribute to the decoration, and stamp that value on canvas and marble which is acknowledged by taste and discern-

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ment, and mark those necessary distinctions between the palace and the cottage.

Publick magnificence may be considered as a political and moral advantage to every nation; politically, from the intercourse with foreigners expending vast sums on our curiosities and productions; morally, as it tends to promote industry, to stimulate invention and to excite emulation in the polite and liberal arts; for those industrious hands who find agriculture, &c. overstocked with labourers, naturally fall into those employments where they may expect more encouragement, in proportion, as more ingenuity is required.

We all know that the chief sources of wealth to many fallen states, are the remains of their ancient magnificence, and the constant confluence of foreigners to those places supply the deficiencies of manufactures or commerce.

The sums expended by foreigners may be considered as a laudable tax on their curiosity, whose ideas being excited by fame, can never be satisfied but by ocular demonstration. And had we more ample means of gratifying that thirst after novelty and amusement, numbers would continually flock over to our nation, as we continually do to theirs.

Let us consider the man of affluence, actuated by that beneficent spirit, the mere delight of doing good, and rendering himself acceptable to his Creator; he is furnished with the means, and by employing the ingenious and laborious artizans, adds to the necessity of labour, the desire of excellence: A villa rises, an estate is improved, and a manufacture established; these create the proper distinction between the Prince and the peasant, the merchant and the workman; these characterize the genius of a nation, mark the æra of its excellence, raise it from obscurity to fame, and fix it as the standard of taste to latest posterity.

In speaking of the ignorance of early times it is natural to charge them with want of genius; but the natural qualities of every nation are alike. The Egyptians, Greeks and Romans, who have made such a great progress in the sciences, were not actuated by supernatural causes, or any innate principles in their original formation; the mind is a mere blank, but capable of receiving such

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impressions as custom, education, or any other relative cause shall make upon it. It increases in vigour, according to its sensibility of such application, and, by degrees, so far exalts its powers, that it seems to obtain new faculties in seeing, hearing and feeling those objects to which it is most familiarized; it perceives defects and excellencies which the ignorant and unexperienced never apprehend. The man becomes eminent in his profession in proportion as his perception is more or less acute; and you easily distinguish the man of genius, or the inventor of original designs, from the servile copyist; who, though he may pretend to be an ingenious man, can have no title to the praise of genius.

But to return. If we examine the remains of the Roman magnificence, we shall see their first intentions were to procure the conveniences of life and health of the inhabitants; these are visible to this day, in their aqueducts and subterraneous drains. Next to these considerations, was the honouring the gods by magnificent temples. Then arose cities, palaces and private buildings, which were adorned with every production of science.

The English are now what the Romans were of old, distinguished like them by power and opulence, and excelling all other nations in commerce and navigation. Our wisdom is respected, our laws are envied, and our dominions are spread over a large part of the globe.

Let us, therefore, no longer neglect to enjoy our superiority; let us employ our riches in the encouragement of ingenious labour, by promoting the advancement of grandeur and elegance.

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Page 9, line 35, for execution, read designs.

11, 14, for elegantly, read tolerably well.

62, in the note, line 40, for entertains and instead, read entertains instead.

73, last line, for ducation, read education.

81, Number 14, read Gate-Street to be opened into Holborn, and a new street to be made opposite to it into Red Lion Square, Drake-Street and Devonshire-street are widened, so that an uninterrupted communication will be formed from Lincoln's-Inn-Fields to Queen's Square, and so on to the New-Road; an improvement which is much wanted in that part of the town.

114, line 13, dele in.

N.B. The Lines tinged with red in the plan shew the proposed improvements, the dotted or faint Lines, the streets in their present state.

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I M P R O V E D.



A Discourse on Publick Magnificence.

IF the use and advantage of publick magnificence is considered as a national concern, it will be found to be of the utmost consequence, in promoting the welfare of mankind, as that attention to it, which encouragement will produce, must necessarily stimulate the powers of invention and ingenuity, and of course, create employment for great numbers of artists, who, exclusive of the reward of their abilities, cannot fail of striking out many things which will do honour to themselves and to their country. This consideration alone, is without doubt highly worthy of a commercial people; it is this which gives the preference to one country in comparison with another, and it is this which distinguishes the genius of a people, in the most striking manner. In the same proportion as publick magnificence increases, in the same proportion will a love of elegance increase among all ranks and degrees of people, and that refinement of taste, which in a nobleman produces true magnificence and elegance, will in a mechanic produce at least cleanliness and decorum.

L O N D O N T A N D

Publick magnificence and elegance has, by persons of narrow conceptions, been sometimes termed luxury, but this is an assertion which they would have done well if they had explained; if they mean that all artificial wants beyond the common necessaries of life are to be termed luxuries, it will then appear that the condition of mankind is no way superior to that of the brute creation; bring reason into the scale and we shall be reduced below them; the desire of knowledge is naturally implanted in mankind, and to suppose the great author of nature has given us desires and denied us the power of gratifying them, is to suppose he has made us the most miserable beings in the creation. Every rational man will allow that no natural appetite is to be totally extinguished, it is only to be directed by right reason. If the enjoyment of the elegancies of life neither hurts the mind, impairs the body, or does harm to individuals, it is no great matter what name the affection of such persons may happen to bestow upon what their understandings were never formed to comprehend; but if a man of delicate sensation in order to gratify his passions hurts either of these he certainly abuses the noble faculties nature has bestowed upon him. What therefore in regard to publick magnificence is commonly called luxury, may be applied to the noblest purposes, the encouragement of ingenuity and industry; and certainly in a trading kingdom the more ingenious and industrious the subordinate part of the inhabitants are made, the more advantages will accrue to the community. No man in his senses would surely argue for an equality among mankind, to destroy distinctions would be to destroy all order and decorum, and if what is falsely called luxury was annihilated, what of course must become of the multitudes whose subsistence entirely depend upon its existence.

If publick magnificence, and a taste for the polite arts, was attended to and properly encouraged, of what prodigious service would it be to noblemen and gentlemen of fortune who travel. If they were accustomed to the frequent observation of grand and elegant objects at home, how differently would they appear in the eyes of foreigners. Instead of becoming astonished and confounded

founded at the grandeur and novelty of the several objects presented to their view, they would consider them with a tranquility which could not fail of convincing those about them, they were not strangers to magnificence, and that they were no otherwise affected, than as the objects before them were well or ill executed, which would at once pronounce the goodness of their taste, and do honour to themselves and country.

In order to illustrate the foregoing observations on the utility of publick magnificence and elegance it may not be improper to consider the state of the city of London before the conflagration in 1666, when that great city, (which like most others had arisen from small beginings) was totally inelegant, inconvenient, and unhealthy *, of which latter misfortune many melancholy proofs are authenticated in history, and which without doubt proceeded from the narrowness of the streets and the unaccountable projection of the buildings, which confined the putrid air, and joined with other circumstances, such as the want of water, and the concurring consequence of the increase of filth, rendered the city scarce ever free from pestilential devastation. The fire which consumed the greatest part of the city, dreadful as it was to the inhabitants at that time, was productive of consequences which made ample amends for the losses sustained by individuals; a new city arose on the ruins of the old, but, though more regular, open, convenient and healthful than the former, yet by no means answered to the characters of magnificence or elegance, and it is ever to be lamented (such was the infatuation of those times) that the magnificent, elegant and useful plan of the great Sir Christopher Wren was totally disregarded and sacrificed to the mean, interested and selfish views of private property; views which did irreparable injury to the citizens themselves, and to the nation in general, for had that great architect's plan been followed, what has often been asserted must have been the result, the metropolis of this king-

* This was certainly a fact, and as certainly contradicts all the accounts of the magnificence and elegance of the city of London, so pompously set forth by Stowe in his time, and Maitland and Seymour long since, who have all taken great pains to persuade their readers that this city exceeds in splendor every other in Europe.

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dom would incontestably have been the most magnificent and elegant city in the universe, and of consequence must from the prodigious resort of foreigners of distinction and taste, who would have visited it have become an inexhaustible fund of riches to this Nation. But as the deplorable blindness of that age has deprived us of so valuable an acquisition, it is become absolutely necessary that some efforts should be made to render the present plan in some degree answerable to the character of the richest and most powerful people in the world, but this can only be done by considering every opportunity occasioned by fire, dilapidation, or any other accident, as well as of purchasing ruinous buildings, which are absolute nuisances and dangerous to the lives and safeties of the people, as occasions to be improved for the use of the publick. By this means streets might be opened, avenues widened, publick edifices made conspicuous, and passages to and from places of the greatest resort for publick business rendered safe, commodious and elegant.

It has been thought by some that the situation of the city of London is in many respects inferior in point of grandeur and affect to those of Rome, Paris and Constantinople, and that it is not to be viewed to any kind of advantage but from a very few places, but as it was never intended to consider this point critically the ground plan has only been attended to in this work.

The plan of London in its present state will upon inspection appear, to very moderate judges, to be as injudicious a disposition as can possibly be conceived for a city of trade and commerce situated on the borders of so noble a river as the Thames; the wharfs and quays on its banks are despicable and inconvenient beyond conception, and it is utterly impossible that a worse use could have been made of so beneficial as well as ornamental a part of this city. But allowing in this case that private property, the convenience of individuals, and above all the perplexing irregularity of the Buildings which disgrace its borders, were obstacles which are insurmountable, and which must remain without remedy, surely the case is widely different in respect to that part of the town about Grosvenor Square and Mary-le-Bone. No such difficulties presented

presented themselves in that quarter, and it is certain if a well regulated plan had been consulted, so noble a spot might have been made ornamental at least, and instead of heaping absurdity upon absurdity have produced elegance and convenience in the room of reproach and contempt. Why so wretched an use has been made of so valuable and desirable an opportunity of displaying taste and elegance in this part of the town is a question that very probably would puzzle the builders themselves to answer.

The true reason then is, that this profusion of deformity has been obtruded upon the publick solely for want of a general well regulated limitted plan, the execution of which should have been enforced by commissioners appointed by authority, men of sound judgment, taste and activity; had that happily been the case all the glaring absurdities which are perpetually staring in the faces and insulting the understandings of persons of sense and taste, would never have had existence. But private property and pitiful mean undertakings, suited to the capacities of the projectors, have taken place of that regularity and elegance which a general plan would have produced, and nothing seems to have been considered but the interest of a few tasteless builders, who have entered into a combination with no other views than fleecing the publick and of extending and distorting the town till they have rendered it compleatly ridiculous. But even in point of interest these very builders are deceiving themselves, for wherever any one or more of them have contrived a narrow street, lane or alley, though the houses may let well for the present, yet they may be assured that as the rage for building increases, whenever a more spacious avenue is built, those ill-contrived things will be deserted, and the inhabitants flock to places where they can breathe freely and better enjoy the conveniences of life.

If it has with any degree of truth been said that the plan of the city, as it now stands, is inconvenient, inelegant, and without the least pretension to magnificence or grandeur, it may with equal truth and propriety be said, that by far the greatest part of the additional buildings which have been erected within these last

twenty years, in the places beforementioned, are not a jot behind hand with the city in point of deformity, with this additional aggravation, that the builders had it in their power to have made the city appear infinitely more despicable than it does, by opposing order and elegance to confusion and absurdity.

It is utterly impossible to determine any precise form in the plan of a great city, as so much will always depend upon the situation of the ground and the disposition of the river, where there is one, which, in a city of trade, will always direct the position of the principal parts; but then it ought always to be an established rule, that every possible advantage should be taken that the situation is capable of producing, for the preservation of health and the convenience of the inhabitants. It is to be wished, that the ground-plans of all great cities and towns were composed of right lines, and that the streets intersected each other at right angles, for except in cases of absolute necessity, acute angles ought for ever to be avoided, as they are not only disagreeable to the sight, but constantly waste the ground and spoil the buildings; indeed, if it was practicable, a square or circular form should be preferred in all capital cities as best adapted to grandeur and convenience; in the center of which in a spacious opening the King's palace should be situated; in which case he would be surrounded by his subjects, and the whole, if the expression may be allowed, would resemble a hive of bees. But unfortunately for the city and suburbs of London, right lines have hardly ever been considered, and it is entirely owing to this neglect, that so much confusion has been introduced in the disposition of the streets. Such a vast city as that of London ought to have had at least three capital streets which should have run through the whole, and at convenient distances been intersected by other capital streets at right angles, by which means all the inferior streets would have an easy and convenient communication with them, for want of such disposition and to avoid such horrid passages as Watling Street and Thames Street in the city, all passengers, whose business calls them to London Bridge, though those streets are well situated, are forced into Cheapside in order to preserve their lives or limbs,

limbs, which proves, incontestibly, that a quiet and easy communication from place to place is of the utmost consequence to the inhabitants of a great commercial city.

Custom has hitherto blinded the inhabitants of London with respect to these notorious inconveniences, and the popular prejudice so deeply rooted in them, that London is in every respect the finest city in the world, prevents the majority from seeing and considering its defects, and consequently they quietly submit to be thrust more than half a mile out of the way, rather than call in question the understanding of their forefathers. But how would the good people of London be struck, if a traveller, in describing a Hottentot crawl or city, should tell them, that this immense crawl, equally populous and rich, is nothing more than a confused heap, an irregular, slovenly, ill-digested composition, of all that is absurd and ungraceful; that its principal avenues are narrow and crooked, that the greatest part of the crawl is composed of blind alleys and narrow unconnected passages, equally inconvenient and unwholesome, that some of its houses are suffered to project before the others, to the great annoyance of their neighbours, and that for want of a tolerably well-regulated plan, the indolence of its inhabitants has suffered one of the finest situations in the world to become a reproach to the whole nation, and after enumerating all these disgusting particulars, should conclude with saying, that he knew no city in Europe that could convey so good an idea of this Hottentot crawl as that of London.

In order to support and illustrate the foregoing disagreeable comparison, which to many may appear severe, partial and injurious, let any one who has a tolerable taste, and some idea of publick magnificence, give himself the trouble of considering the state of the buildings, quays and wharfs on both sides the River Thames, from Chelsea to Blackwall on the one hand, and from Battersea to Greenwich on the other, and he will be immediately convinced that there is not one convenient, well-regulated spot (as the buildings thereon are at present disposed) either for business or elegance in that whole extent;

extent; and what is still more, that one half of the buildings on the banks of the river are in ruins, and the whole utterly lost to the publick, as well as extremely inconvenient to individuals. After he has considered the state of the banks of the river, he may continue his observations upon the interior parts of the town, and naturally turn his eyes upon those useful places to the trading part of the world, Wapping, Rotherhithe, and Southwark, all contiguous to the Thames, and all entirely destitute of that useful regularity, convenience and utility, so very desirable in commercial cities, and that too in places formed by nature for the execution of every thing of that kind. In this part of his observation he must necessarily be led to consider the Tower, Towerhill, and particularly the Custom-House, which last building being of the utmost consequence to the publick, he will find in point of grandeur, magnificence and convenience, to be the worst contrived heap of absurdity and inconvenience that could possibly be put together, in a place where room might have been found to display every advantage the nature of such a building indispensably required. The observer may from thence direct his view through wretched, miserably contrived avenues into Spittalfields, White-Chapel, Moorfields, and the adjacent parts, where he will find the most advantageous situations laid out in the most despicable manner, nor will he be much better satisfied when he comes to consider the buildings which are at this time carrying on, at, and about the Bank of England, where he will immediately discover that what was meant as an improvement, is made an awkward blemish to the city of London. When he has proceeded thus far in the city, it may not be amiss to consider the situation of St. Paul's, and other churches, the Monument, the companies Halls, and other publick buildings, and if mean encumbrances are to be esteemed as ornamental and advantageous to fine buildings, he will find ample room for admiration. The observer may next take in all those wretched parts which

which he will find on both sides the Fleet-Market, and afterwards view the only gate (except Temple-Bar) the citizens have left themselves to shew that London was once a city ; this however unfortunately was the greatest nuisance of them all, and was undoubtedly left with a political view, as an apologetical specimen to posterity, for destroying all the rest. Indeed this seems to be the only strong hold the good citizens have left, and is the only place from which the bad ones cannot escape, if they have a mind to it.

Necessity will compel the observer to proceed into Smith-field, for the sake of breathing a freer air, and when he has considered a spot capable of the greatest advantages, but destitute of any, he may plunge into the deplorable avenues of Fee-lane and other horrid passages in that neighbourhood, and after pursuing the most disagreeable labyrinth that can be conceived for a considerable time, emerge again upon Clerkenwell-Green, in which he will find the only good street, in that part of the town; surrounded by some of the very worst in it.

It will be no easy task for the observer from Clerkenwell-Green to ascend Mutton-Lane, and proceed to Baldwin's Gardens, a desolated spot, through the ruins of which, if he escapes without hurt, he may reach Gray's-Inn-Lane, one of the principal avenues to this metropolis, which is despicable beyond conception: From thence he may hobble into Holborn, where the first object that presents itself to view is Middle-Row, a nuisance universally detested, and for that reason, and the narrow consideration of private property, suffered to remain a publick disgrace to the finest street in London.

He may proceed with some satisfaction until he arrives at Broad St. Giles's, where, if he can bear to see a fine situation covered with ruinous buildings, and inhabited by the most deplorable objects that human nature can furnish, he may visit the environs. From hence he may proceed along Oxford-Road, and striking into the town on which hand he pleases, meet with places which (considering the situation of the ground they stand upon, the expensiveness of the buildings erected, the meanness of the execution, and, above all, the wretched disposition of the whole for want of a well-regulated

plan) deserve to be placed even below the meanest of those already mentioned, though almost all of them were erected within the memory of man.

He will not be better satisfied when he has reached Westminster, when he considers what might have been done, and how little has been done, when so fine an opportunity presented itself; certainly the building of the new bridge, and the power with which the commissioners were vested, demanded much more, and had a general plan of improvements been duly considered, it is as certain that a very different use would have been made of so desirable a field for the exertion of taste, elegance and magnificence. If he proceeds further than the new buildings, he will find only the same defects repeated, wretched avenues, miserable buildings, and a continued display of absurdity and inconvenience.

From Westminster-Bridge he may easily, though not so agreeably as he might have reasonably hoped (owing to the injudicious formation of the road) conduct himself into St. George's-Fields, the only spot now left about London, which has not yet fallen a sacrifice to the depraved taste of modern builders, here he may indulge himself with the contemplation of what advantageous things may yet be done for this hitherto neglected metropolis; the bridge now building at Black-Friars will undoubtedly be the means of entirely altering the face of that part of the city, and certainly it becomes necessary to take particular care of the execution of a plan, which, when once ill done, we cannot hope will hereafter be remedied.

It was judged unnecessary to conduct the observer to the palace of St. James's, for that is an object of reproach to the kingdom in general, it is universally condemned, and the meanest subject who has seen it, laments that his Prince resides in a house so ill-becoming the state and grandeur of the most powerful and respectable monarch in the universe; a Prince whose supreme happiness consists in promoting the good and welfare of his subjects, who is himself a lover of the arts, and under whose happy auspices artists of every denomination of real merit and ingenuity can never doubt of obtaining patronage and encouragement in a manner

manner adequate to their respective abilities. But bad as the palace of St. James's really is in its present state, the pride of the people of England ought to exert itself in such a manner that nothing derogatory to the Majesty of the King, or to the glory of the kingdom, should be suffered to take place with regard to it. No mean, despicable attempt to cover deformity by patch-work, which might aptly be compared to the miserable artifice of a battered prostitute, who endeavours by paint to hide the effects of debauchery, or conceal the defects of nature; no, the palace of the Sovereign of these kingdoms ought not to be permitted even to be the second in the world, and if it cannot be the first, it is to be wished that it may remain in its present state until this nation shall have acquired more taste, and have attained more spirit to put that taste in execution.

The Queen's palace is upon the whole elegantly designed, and the situation extremely good, but it is to be wished it was disengaged from the removal of several of the surrounding buildings, especially those which hinder the view into the Green-Park, and deform the whole palace: These, and some others on the opposite side ought to be taken away, but if these are not suitable to the palace, the mean houses now erecting, called Queen's-Row, near the garden-wall, are intolerable nuisances, and it is great pity they could not have been prevented, as they must be offensive to the palace and gardens upon many accounts. The Chelsea water-engine is also very inconveniently situated, as the smoke from it must unavoidably be poured into the palace whenever the wind blows from that quarter, and the smoke from the above-mentioned hovels must also in a great measure affect it in the same manner. The brick kilns and hospitals are likewise intolerable nuisances which should be removed; the removal of the statues by the former possessor was improper, and the house was deprived of a very great ornament, as they broke the strait line upon the top of the building, and produced a noble effect; nor was the removal of the fountain at the same time more judicious, as it contributed to spoil the whole design.

From what has, with the strictest regard to truth, been said of the city and suburbs of London and Westminster, there cannot remain the least doubt but that their state, with regard to magnificence,

elegance and convenience, is very despicable, consequently the necessity of rendering them otherwise is become a matter of serious concern to persons in power, and is a demonstration that some kind of general plan should be formed for their improvement. In the cities of Paris, Edinburgh, Rotterdam and other places, the government takes cognizance of all publick buildings both useful and ornamental, and where any thing absurd or improper is proposed to be done the legislature seasonably prevents the intrusion of deformity in their capital, which would undoubtedly find its way if the whim and caprice of their builders was suffered to go on without this check.

In the city of Rome, when any great design was conceived and determined to be put in execution, whether it was to decorate the church of St. Peter, or to erect a statue or fountain, the first artist in that city was always sure to be preferred and employed; in order to this it was usual to give notice that such an undertaking was in agitation, and the assistance of the artists required, in consequence of this notice, designs and models were immediately furnished, and the superintendants of those works constantly preferred such as appeared to have the greatest degree of merit: This conduct produced emulation, and gave rise to such performances as have deservedly merited the approbation of the most consummate judges, and done honour to the artists and their employers.

Happy would it have been for this great city, if authority had by a timely interposition prevented many of those intolerable nuisances and deformities already complained of. It is certain that a good regular plan is less expensive than a bad irregular one. Had authority interposed, we should very probably have had the pleasure of seeing buildings erected with more convenient room, and at the same time occupying less ground; we should have been utter strangers to the terminating of tolerable good streets with stables and dunghills; nor should we have seen the fronts of one pile of buildings opposed to the backs of another, which is undoubtedly one of the greatest errors that can be committed, for in that case one side of the street must be encumbered with a melancholy dangerous dead wall, for which there is not any other remedy than that of making dwarf walls with

with iron rails, a method which occasions an unnecessary expence, and when done becomes inconvenient and ungraceful.

Had a general plan been observed in the new buildings about Mary-le-Bone and the adjacent parts, so many despicable little chapels would never have been suffered, when there is so manifest a want of noble objects in that quarter; had the parish church of Mary-le-Bone been rebuilt in a magnificent manner and well placed, it would have answered the purposes both of a commodious place for publick worship to the numerous families in that parish, and at the same time in the view of the town from the adjacent country, would have broken the line of the new buildings, which as they at present stand give no better idea to the spectator than that of a plain brick wall of prodigious length. In proof of the consequence of objects of this kind, let it be supposed that the cupola of St. Paul's was taken away, and it would then be found that the loss of that noble ornament would immediately reduce the appearance of the city to a level with that of any other populous city in the kingdom.

In many parts of the new buildings another very great absurdity has been practised, which is that of erecting single brick edifices with stone fronts of a regular design, the sides and backs of which being entirely exposed present nothing but absurdity and contradiction, a motley composition of stone and brick walls perforated with holes in order to admit light. In the city of Bath, the fronts of the houses which compose the celebrated circus there, are built of stone of the three Greek orders, three quarter columns in couplets with their proper entablatures, and the doors and windows in character; and so far when finished will be the most elegant structure in the kingdom, though rather too small; but how is the spectator offended when he comes to view the back part of this very circus, which is entirely exposed, and finds that it has no kind of connection with the front and exhibits only a heap of confused irregular buildings *.

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* This could have been removed by building an outer circle, forming a double row of houses, or a square, which would have answered the same purpose. An ingenious gentleman proposed some years ago to the citizens of Bath, a scheme for improving
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As the mention of Bath has led us into a digression, it may not be improper to observe that in this age of mistaken refinement there is not in the kingdom one city, town or village wherein any regularity is observed, or attempt made towards magnificence or elegance, except the city of Bath. And the worst is, that immense sums have been for many years past laid out in several places, which for want of taste in those who had the direction of the buildings, are perhaps much the worse for their being erected at all. Whenever any buildings either in a city, town or village go to decay the proprietor (if able) should be obliged to rebuild in a regular uniform manner. The villages about London in particular, such as Chelsea, Kensington, Knightsbridge, Paddington, Islington, &c. should be subject to a law of this kind; they are all capable of vast improvements, and might very easily be made delightful spots, worthy the neighbourhood of so rich and opulent a city as London: But as magnificence and elegance are so little attended to in the capital itself, it can hardly be expected they should be found in its adjacencies.

The two universities of Oxford and Cambridge, are striking examples of what might be done. If a little attention had been given to propriety, elegance and regularity, if after the foundation of the first college in either of those places, the next succeeding ones had been erected from time to time with a view to this great end, what noble places would these great seminaries have been, what a variety of elegant uniform buildings, what grand and regular streets and squares would have been formed, and how totally different would their appearance have been at present? But no such principle having ever been attended to, these places which ought to have been at least as elegant as any in the kingdom, are with respect to order and decorum the most confused scenes that can be imagined.

and beautifying that city, and though it met with the greatest approbation from people of taste in general, and in particular from a nobleman who was possessed of very great property there, yet from the ignorant prejudices of the majority of the citizens, this useful scheme was suffered to be thrown aside, and though they are now building in that city at a prodigious rate, no regard is paid to a general plan, which is also the case in several other places in this kingdom.

Before this discourse is concluded, it becomes necessary to return to the city, and mention the great want of spacious elegant streets there. This has been done before in a general way, in speaking of those dangerous inconvenient avenues Watling-street and Thames-street; were these properly opened, what an alteration would be produced in respect to grandeur and utility, how easy, safe and commodious would the conveyance of goods and merchandize be rendered by it, and what a fine opportunity would thereby be given to erect dwelling houses for the wealthy merchants, who for want of such conveniences are thrust out of the way of their busines, and obliged to live in a part of the town entirely unsuitable to their interests in every respect; the body of merchants certainly are and ought to be, to the inferior citizens, what the body of the nobility are to the whole; the merchants are the opulent people of the city, and the greatest part of its inhabitants are entirely dependant upon them, indeed their dependance is mutual, for which reason it is plain their residence ought to be in the city, and consequently some effectual method should be pursued in order to accommodate them properly, and prevent as much as possible their mixing among persons of quality, whose manner of living and pursuits are totally unsuitable to men of busines.

Two or three centuries ago indeed several of the principal of the nobility resided within the walls of the city, and undoubtedly the grandeur of those buildings must have added much to the appearance the city then made, but since that time the different mode of living has produced prodigious changes, and it is to be wished, as people of quality with great propriety withdrew themselves from the city, that the citizens with equal propriety would withdraw themselves to a situation where they would meet with more respect, and at the same time attend their busines; but this can never be done unless some effectual step is taken by the city to provide the merchants with streets suitable to the affluence of that respectable body of people, who are without doubt the most useful and beneficial part of the community.

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From what has been already advanced in pursuing this discourse, it appears there is abundant room for improving and embellishing several parts of the city and suburbs of London; but, as individuals, we are extremely expensive, as a people mean and pitiful; the principal intention of the Author is to advise (what has by every thinking person been long wished) that proper bounds may be set to that fury which seems to possess the fraternity of builders, and to prevent them from extending the town in the enormous manner they have done and still continue to do, and this it is presumed can be no other way accomplished than by a plan of limitation, beyond which they should be prohibited from building under severe penalties; since if they are permitted to proceed at their accustomed rate, we may expect to find that the neighbouring hills of Hampstead and Highgate, will soon become considerable parts of the suburbs of London; and when the limbs extend themselves too fast, and grow out of proportion to the body which is to nourish and sustain them, it may very rationally be supposed, that a consumption will be the consequence: And indeed if the expression may be allowed, many parts of the body are already reduced to skin and bone; by means therefore of a proper limitation this terrible event may be prevented, and if these quacks in building can be called in and made any way serviceable towards restoring and repairing the decayed parts of the body, they may then be allowed to plead their having done some service, and possibly make attorneyment for the wretched operations they have already performed upon its mangled limbs.

To give any probable reason why such a prodigious encrease of building has been encouraged in this metropolis, may perhaps be esteemed no part of the Author's business, but whether it proceeds from the migration of foreigners, or from so many convenient roads being made from all parts of the kingdom, whether it be owing to our own people's deserting their native homes and quitting their innocent country retreats for the sake of tasting the pleasures of this great city *, whether the profits

* Perhaps it might not be disadvantageous to the kingdom in general if the royal residence was not confined solely to London, if the court was occasionally held in different

of a successful war has enabled some to keep houses who were formerly contented with lodgings; whether it is owing to the arrival of others, who, having acquired fortunes in the plantations, come to spend them here; or to the monopolizing of farms, that is, making one large farm out of three or four small ones, and thereby compelling the farmers who are turned out of them to seek their bread in this metropolis, are all considerations well worth enquiring into; as it is certain that notwithstanding the amazing encrease of buildings, houses are still procured with difficulty, and the rents of most are perpetually encreasing; but these are questions which it is hoped some more able persons will think it worth their while to answer. There is the greatest probability that in time the prodigious encrease of buildings must give relief to the tenants, as it will be impossible for them all to be inhabited, and at the same time that the landlords of old houses should continue to raise their rents, there is one circumstance which is pleasant enough, and is now carrying on with great success by the landlords in those streets which are at this time new paving, which is, that although the expence of paving and lighting the streets in the manner prescribed by the act falls entirely upon the tenant, yet the landlords, taking advantage of a benefit they never intended or have in the least contributed to, fail not where-ever they are not prevented by a lease, to raise their rents in the most arbitrary manner.

It becomes necessary in this place to take particular notice of the very elegant, useful and necessary improvement of the city of Westminster, and its liberties, by the present method of paving and enlightening it; an improvement which every one who is doomed to walk feels in the most sensible manner; to say that the streets are thereby rendered safe and commodious would be saying too little, it may without exaggeration be asserted, that they are not only made safe and commodious, but elegant and magnificent;

different places it might in some measure prevent many from coming to this city, who have no business to visit it at all, for it is possible that too many people may be brought to London, and thereby in time depopulate the country, as well as greatly enhance the price of provisions and every other necessary of life.

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this can be no where pointed out with so much propriety as in the Strand, which from being dark, dirty and inconvenient, is become splendid, elegant, and in respect of what it was before, magnificent; upon the whole, there never was in any age or country a publick scheme adopted which reflects more glory upon a government, or does greater honour to the person who originally proposed and supported it; indeed it is to be wished that when this improvement was concerted it had been carried a little further, by removing all kinds of busines which from their nature are offensive or dangerous, such as publick markets, into detached places.

The intolerable practice of holding a market for the sale of live cattle in the center of the metropolis has been loudly and justly complained of for many years past, but no redress has yet been given, nor indeed any attention paid to the repeated remonstrances made against a nuisance at once extremely dangerous as well as inelegant and inconvenient, the almost total inattention of the generality of mankind to every thing which does not immediately concern their own interest, has hitherto prevented the citizens of London from taking cognizance of a nuisance which it is undoubtedly both their interest and duty to remove; the same inattention, or something worse, has likewise prevented them from considering that with regard to this very circumstance their fore-fathers were much wiser than their descendants, for they may please to recollect, that when London was a city, that is, had a regular wall and gates, this very market was obliged to be kept in Smithfield, or Smith's field, a field without the walls, near enough to the center of the metropolis to render it convenient, but at the same time properly situated to prevent those inconveniences which at this time are so justly complained of; at the same time we find that the slaughter-houses were situated in and about Butcher-Hall-Lane, between Newgate and Aldersgate, and probably no where else; which situation from its vicinity to Smithfield, was extremely proper, and prevented the cattle from being driven through the streets of the city; but as in succeeding times the suburbs began to be extended in a prodigious degree, Smithfield became not only surrounded with houses but with streets also,

also, and at length by the demolition of the city wall and gates, is become much too nearly situated in the heart of the metropolis, a circumstance which was manifestly never intended by our fore-fathers. It is a great pity therefore that in regard to the lives and safeties of the people, as well as of elegance and decorum, this market is not removed to some convenient spot near the Islington road; either between that road and the suburbs, or at the back part of Islington; this market might be formed into a regular and spacious square, surrounded with slaughter-houses and other necessary buildings adapted to the several purposes of this kind of business, and the whole might be so contrived as not to be offensive even in point of appearance; in such a place the beasts might be sold and killed by the purchasers, and afterwards removed to the several markets; but if any very material objection should be made to the removal of this market, it may be worth considering whether it would not be practicable to erect slaughter-houses in the neighbourhood of Smithfield, somewhere about Chick-Lane or some such ruinous part, which places would by this means be rendered valuable to the owners, and in order to prevent the mischiefs before complained of, a method should be considered to stop all the avenues into Smithfield during the hours of holding the market, (except that which led immediately to the slaughter-houses) and the cattle, after they were purchased, should be driven directly thither, and either killed the same day, or if proper places were built for their reception, be kept there as long as convenience would require; by this means the great mischief arising from driving the cattle through the streets would be prevented, accidents of this kind are chiefly owing to the separating of these animals from each other, to which they have a natural aversion; when one of them is parted from the herd, he always endeavours to recover his situation, but being prevented and finding himself alone, which he is unaccustomed to be, he runs wildly about, and as his terrors are too often increased by the cruelty of the drivers and pursuits of the rabble, becomes outrageous, and at length from the natural principle of self-defence often does irreparable mischief.

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Another expedient for preventing the dangers arising from the practice of driving cattle through the metropolis, would be to have a market somewhere near the Borough of Southwark, to which the cattle from Kent, Surry and the other counties, might be brought for sale, and this to be contrived in the same manner as that mentioned at or near Islington; both these markets might be immediately under the inspection and regulation of the Lord Mayor and citizens of London, and if even a third and fourth were thought necessary to be held in the East and West ends of the town, for the convenience of the publick, they might be regulated in the same manner; but the nuisance complained of should by no means be any longer tolerated, nor is it apprehended this very desirable event can be any other way accomplished than by the methods above-mentioned. If such a scheme was to be put in execution, the removal of the market would give a fine opportunity to the city of London for converting Smithfield into a noble regular square, which might be applied either for the purpose of trade or else as dwellings for merchants and people of opulence, as should be found most convenient.

It would have been also advantageous for the publick if for the convenience of watering the streets, water-cocks had been placed at certain distances, which should communicate from the pipes and pass under the pavement through the kirb, the same thing might be practised in the New-Road, which forms the grand line of limitation; as cess-pools are found to be very offensive and inconvenient, it is a great pity that more attention is not given to making publick drains or common-sewers, which should always be made large enough for a man to walk upright, and at proper distances trap-doors should be contrived of sufficient strength, in order to cleanse them without breaking up the pavement, which is the common inconvenient method now practised.

From what has been already urged, it must be allowed that publick works of real magnificence, taste, elegance and utility, in a commercial city, are of the utmost consequence; they are not only of real use in point of splendor and convenience, but as necessary to the community as health and cloathing to the human body,

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they are the great sources of invention and of ingenious employments, and are a means of stamping real value upon materials of every kind. It is entirely owing to the encouragement of works of this sort that the kingdom of France has obtained a superiority over the rest of the world in the polite arts, and it is by the encouragement of these alone that this nation, to the full as ingenious as the French, can ever hope to make a figure in the arts equal to what they now make in arms.

Upon the whole, the Author submits his work entirely to the candour of the publick, that publick for whose use and benefit it was solely undertaken, and from whom the nature of the work will not permit him to expect any other reward than a timely and serious consideration of its utility. His chief aim has been solely directed to enforce an attention to publick improvements, in order that every communication may be rendered equally convenient, that property may be made more valuable, and that by an elegant disposition of the whole it may become a matter of indifference in what quarter of the town one would chuse to reside; to conclude, thus much he will venture to assert, that if the whole or any part of his proposed alterations are put into execution, he does not believe any one would wish to see the old forms restored.



Observations.

*Observations on the State of Arts and
Artists in Great-Britain.*

AS the cultivation of the polite arts is beyond contradiction a source of wealth and honour to a nation, and as it has been principally designed in this work to recommend and promote the care and study of them, it may not be improper to give a concise account of the rise and progress of the several branches of painting, sculpture, architecture and engraving, by which the publick will be enabled to form a judgment of the former as well as present state of the arts in this kingdom.

The art of painting in England, has, until very lately, been in a fluctuating state. In the reign of Henry the Eighth Holbein painted here, and was encouraged by that Monarch, and consequently was employed by the Nobility of those times, but his works were unknown to the publick, few persons had the opportunity of seeing them, consequently they excited no emulation among the ingenious, and the splendour of painting disappeared with that master, it glimmered however again in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, Isaac Oliver and Zuccaro painted in her time; it afterwards grew more faint, or rather was totally extinguished, in the reign of King James the First, but blazed out in that of his successor. Rubens and Vandyke were employed by King Charles the First, they were indeed foreign auxiliaries, but they laid the foundations of taste and knowledge in this art among the great, their works, especially those of Vandyke, were not only more numerous but became also more the objects of publick attention, than those of Holbein and the succeeding masters had been; accordingly emulation was excited among the ingenious part of this nation, and several painters were produced who did honour to their country, but their genius, in compliance with

with the prevailing taste of the kingdom, seldom reached further than to portrait-painting, for encouragement was not given to any other part of the art, ship-painting excepted, in which the celebrated Vandevelde was superior to every other master; however portrait painting flourished and continued to flourish, Cooper, (in miniature) Sir Peter Lely and Sir Godfrey Kneller kept up the national passion with great success, and some publick works which required decorations, gave opportunity to Sir James Thornhill and others to shew that historical painting, if properly encouraged, was a field in which the British nation might engage with their competitors, not without advantage; but notwithstanding this advancement of the art of painting, and the number of ingenious professors who continually increased in every branch, neither painting nor the professors of painting were known, distinguished or encouraged. The few indeed who had taste and discernment sought for these ingenious men, and purchased their works, but the publick knew them not, nor did they know each other; they had no society or intercourse with their fellow artists, consequently had very little to say in each others recommendation in the different branches of painting, and he who had the greatest acquaintance, whatever were his abilities, was sure to get the most money. However, the natural good sense and ingenuity of the British nation continued still to furnish very able masters, and these at length collected their scattered and dispersed brethren and formed a little society, who wisely considering their mutual interest, by a voluntary subscription among themselves, established an academy, which is at this time kept up in St. Martins-Lane.

The establishment of the Foundling-Hospital, which was a national concern, and attracted the notice of the publick in a very particular manner, gave an opportunity, when finished, for displaying a scene entirely new to this nation; the Hospital was just in its infancy, and elegant decorations and every possible means that could allure or draw the attention of the publick towards its support and maintenance were found necessary; but the expence of such ornaments could not be afforded by a charity whose utmost abilities were demanded for the succour and support of deserted perishing infants.

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infants. In order to contribute to the support of this useful establishment, and to shew at once that ingenuity and compassion for the distresses of human nature, are usually found to reside in the same breast, the most considerable artists in Great-Britain, nobly and generously united in bestowing a great number of excellent performances in painting and sculpture, which embellished the Hospital, entertained the publick, and, at the same time, convinced the world that painting was arrived to a degree of perfection in this kingdom, of which, until this era, they had no conception. The governors of the hospital, convinced of the use and benefit which accrued to the charity from these truly valuable donations, and desirous of improving a connection so very advantageous to them, encouraged the several contributors, and also the whole body of those who professed the polite arts, to have an annual-meeting at the Hospital, on the fifth of November; these meetings drew together the most ingenious artists from every quarter, and, at one of them, it was proposed to the whole body, to have an annual exhibition of such performances as should be judged worthy the notice of the publick.

A proposal so very advantagous to merit of every kind, could not fail of being received with applause, and was unanimously agreed to; in consequence of this resolution, application was made to the society of arts, manufactures and commerce, who, taking it into consideration, rightly judged, that an exhibition of this nature could not be carried into execution with so much propriety as under, their patronage; they complied therefore willingly with this request, and, in the year 1760, the first exhibition of the artists of Great-Britain was made, and another the year following; but as every member of the society was at liberty to distribute what number of tickets for admittance he thought fit, that which was intended only as a polite, entertaining and rational amusement for the publick, became a scene of tumult and disorder; and to such a height was the rage of visiting the exhibition carried, that, when the members themselves had satisfied their own curiosity, the room was crowded, during the hours allotted for the exhibition, with menial servants and their acquaintance; this prostitution of the polite arts undoubtedly became extremely disagreeable to the professors themselves,

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who heard alike, with indignation, their works censured or approved by kitchen-maids and stable-boys; but the cause of the final separation (for this abuse might have been remedied) of the artists of Great-Britain, from the society, was this: It had been and is still usual for the society to give premiums for historical and landscape painting, these rewards were usually adjudged among the competitors some little time before the exhibition began, and as those who gained the premiums were obliged to leave their pictures a limited time with the society, they were of course sure to be in the exhibition. The great inconvenience of this method of proceeding was soon discovered by several of the most eminent painters, whose reputations were already so eminently established as to prevent their becoming candidates for a trifling premium; these therefore, as their characters were so nearly concerned, very justly objected to the continuation of this custom, for the following obvious reason: It was generally known that the society had determined premiums for several pictures, and it was natural enough for persons, who knew nothing of the matter, to enquire, upon entering the room, which of the pieces among that profusion of art were those which had obtained the premium, and, being satisfied in this particular, they very innocently concluded, for want of better judgment, that these had obtained the prize from *all* the rest, and, consequently, were the *best* pictures. Had it been possible to have confined this injurious decision to the vulgar spectators, it would have been a thing of no consequence; but unfortunately for the arts, many in a much-higher sphere of life were liable to be led away by the same opinion; and therefore, as the society would not give up this point, a separation ensued, and every succeeding exhibition has been made at the room in Spring-Gardens. The prodigious encouragement given to it, and the applause bestowed on the several performances, by persons of the greatest taste and distinction, evidently shews, what a prodigious progress has been made in the arts, as well as what great expectations may be formed of what will probably be done by the concurring incitements of applause and emulation, and the effects of society and concord. The success of the exhibition, and the harmony which sub-

fisted among the exhibitors, naturally led them to the thoughts of soliciting an establishment, and forming themselves into a body ; in consequence of which solicitation, his Majesty was most graciously pleased to grant them his Royal Charter, incorporating them by the name of The Society of Artists of Great-Britain ; which charter bears date the twenty-sixth day of January, 1765.

Having brought this historical account of the state of painting in England, down to the present time ; it remains only to say, that, in order to raise the art to the utmost degree of perfection in England, it is sincerely to be wished, that the narrow notion of banishing works of this nature from places of publick worship was entirely exploded ; no solid reason can be given, why subjects, properly chosen, should not be painted in Protestant churches, nor can it be argued, that because those who profess the Romish religion, pay adoration to wooden saints and pictures, that those of the church of England would become guilty of a sin in looking upon a picture, merely because they found one in a place of worship, which it was never intended they should pay adoration to ; nor can it be conceived, that while any one is seriously and attentively listening to the sacred history of our Saviour and his apostles, that a noble and sensible representation of the very action itself, would inspire them with any other thoughts than such as would tend to illustrate and make permanent their ideas of the relation. Possibly the contemplation of such objects might prevent the thoughts of many from wandering to others far less worthy of contemplation. The fabulous superstitious legends of pretended saints, ought, without doubt, to be for ever banished ; but the life and miracles of Christ and his apostles, are surely subjects which are suitable to the church, and can never with the least shadow of reason be objected to.

These would certainly be much properer decorations than painted or carved imitations of cherubims, &c. which are scattered about with the greatest profusion in almost every church in London, and particularly in St. Paul's, in which cathedral, as the dome has been suffered to be painted already, and has been so justly admired, there seems to be no reason why the decorations should not be finished according to Sir Christopher Wren's original intention, who

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never dreamed of the ridiculous objections that would be made to its being executed, as appears by the many compartments in that structure, which manifestly point out that great architect's intention. If this miserable mean-spirited prejudice was once overcome, England might in time, in its churches and painters, vie even with Rome itself; but, till that happens, historical painting certainly never will arrive to that pitch, to which such a glorious opportunity would undoubtedly advance it.

We cannot wonder that history is silent in her account of the state of sculpture in this kingdom, during the Heptarchy, or soon after the Roman conquest; the same reason that forbade the progress of painting, operated equally in the obstruction of her sister art; the building of churches only excepted. The immense wealth and power of the clergy induced them to raise and endow cathedrals, monasteries and colleges, intending by such purposes to signalize their zeal for religion, and to constitute an indelible record of the grandeur, riches and power of the church in those periods. As the historians of these ages were chiefly ecclesiastics, they were only zealously active in commending sacred foundations, and praising those religious Princes, or such of the clergy who had endowed or bequeathed lands to their use.

These buildings must necessarily have found employment for sculptors, who were chiefly foreigners, procured by those itinerant priests, whose close connection and dependance on the papal power, occasioned frequent journeys to Rome. As their employers were of this sort, the poor pittance afforded to the artist, was an insufficient inducement to men of abilities to leave their native country, where the arts were, or had been, on a much better establishment. These are the true reasons why the remains of sculpture of those early times are so very indifferent; the engravings of the dies for the coin of our first Monarchs, are little more than the scrawlings of an infant, and the monstrous and obscene productions on many of the old gothic buildings, are indications of an imagination depraved, rude and illiterate. There are indeed some exceptions, where the ornaments, in some few structures of that date, are executed with judgment and precision.

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The figure of King John on his tomb, in the cathedral of Worcester, is the oldest work of statuary that we can depend upon, and probably is the work of Peter Cavalini.

Henry the Third, was the first royal Patron of the arts in England, he employed the above-mentioned Peter Cavalini, a Roman sculptor, recommended to him by Ware the abbot of Westminster; this artist executed, at the King's charge, the tomb of Edward the confessor, a most expensive work; and after Henry's decease, that Monarch's monument in the same stile, upon which lies the first brazen figure made in this country. The four remaining statues on the north side, next the west end of the Abbey, are probably the works of this artist.

There is a great chasm in the history of sculpture, between this reign and that of Edward the Fourth. The continued struggles between the clergy, the pope, the barons, and the kings, and the civil wars of the houses of York and Lancaster, were inauspicious to the polite and liberal arts; and nothing more is recorded of sculpture in this reign, than that a magnificent altar-piece was erected at Bristol, by Cummings a sculptor, representing the resurrection of Christ.

The great expence of a monument erected for the Earl of Warwick, is dated between Henry the Sixth, and the King above-mentioned. Till the reign of Henry the Eighth, we have no accounts of any work of consequence in this art; the execution of his father's tomb demanded assistance from those countries where the sciences were in a more flourishing state; Torregiano, a Florentine sculptor, who had resided here some years, was dispatched to the place of his nativity, to engage some eminent artists to his assistance. Cellini and others accompanied him, and they executed that great work, and several other monuments in this kingdom, with reputation; this Torregiano was a man of genius, and was extremely jealous of the fame of Michael Angelo, with whom he was contemporary.

Cardinal Wolsey, beginning to execute his own monument in his life-time at Windsor, invited Benedetto, a Florentine, into this country, whom he gratified very nobly and liberally; upon the Cardinal's disgrace, the King seized the unfinished work, and employing

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the same artist to compleat it, intended to be buried in that place; but numberless accidents intervening prevented his design, and his successors neglecting it, it remains a ruin to this day, and is at present a workshop for the masons at the castle.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, nothing more is recorded than the monument of the Earl of Sussex, erected in Suffolk, which is still extant, (and was the work of Stephens, who was also a painter and a medalist;) Dr. Caius's tomb at Cambridge, some others of less note, the Queen's own monument, which is very magnificently executed in the stile of that age, and that of Mary Queen of Scotland; the two last were set up at the charge of James the First.

Sculpture made a surprising effort in the reign of King James, in the person of Nicholas Stone, he was in great esteem, and his works very numerous, some statues in the Royal Exchange, Spencer's and other tombs in Westminster-Abbey, and monuments for almost all the great families in England, are proofs of the abilities and also of the encouragement bestowed on this artist:

Some sculptors of eminence flourished in the reign of Charles the First, (that great admirer of the arts) among whom the most esteemed was Le Soeur, disciple of John de Boulogne; the brass statue of the Earl of Pembroke at Oxford, and the equestrian figure at Charing-Cross, are sufficient proofs of his extensive genius and masterly execution.

The protector-ship of Cromwell was no favorable æra for the arts, fanaticism beheld them as the vehicles of idolatry, and therefore destroyed those few precious memorials, which the enthusiastic zeal of the reformers had suffered to remain. Statuary was an absolute breach of the divine ordinances to sectaries whose understandings were confined, whose ideas were gloomy, and whose proceedings were illiberal; no wonder then that the sciences were almost annihilated under such a persecution.

The restoration of Charles the Second presaged a happy reverse to the former period. The King had learned to draw *, had some knowledge of mechanics, and was fond of ship-building; his courtiers too professed the learned sciences, as well as the liberal

* There are designs of his extant.

arts,

arts, and the spirit of encouragement seemed daily increasing. Under such advantages sculpture shone with unexpected lustre, Cibber appeared without a rival, in that excellent bas-relief on the monumental column and the two figures which describe the different effects of madness on the gate at Bedlam: and Gibbons, the admired Gibbons! the touches of whose chisel are inconceivably delicate, arose the wonder of an admiring people; his productions of the vegetable and animal creation are above description. St. Pauls, Windsor, Petworth, Chatsworth, and the whole united kingdom, conspire to make his character equal to any age or country, and the statue of James the Second in Privy-Garden, may rank with the productions of the Roman school.

The reign of James the Second produced one statuary, called Quellin, whose work, the only piece which can with certainty be ascribed to him, is the monument of Mr. Thynne, at Westminster-Abbey. The crying boy in this performance is much admired.

In the reign of King William John Bushnell flourished, he had travelled to Italy, and executed a magnificent monument at Venice: his works on his return to England, were Charles the First and Second, on the front of the Royal-Exchange, and the statues on Temple-Bar, Cowley's monument at Westminster, and others in different counties, which are all marks of his great proficiency in this art; he was an humorist in his disposition, for having agreed to furnish the remaining statues in the Exchange, he was disgusted with his employers and never compleated them.

Francis Bird lived in the reign of Queen Anne, he had studied his profession in Flanders and Rome, he worked under Gibbons and Cibber, and notwithstanding such advantages, the monuments at Westminster, that bear his name, and the figures at St. Paul's, are a melancholly instance of the truth of a French author's remark;

“ A legard de la sculpture,” says he, “ le marbre gemit pour ainsi dire sous de ciseaux ausi peu habiles, que ceux qui ont exécuté “ le group de la Reinne Anne, placé devant l'Eglise de St. Paul, “ & le tombeaux de l'Abbaye de Westminster *.” Yet Busby's

* The marble itself complains under the cruel chisels of such unskilful practitioners as those who cut the group of Queen Anne, in the front of St. Paul's, or the tombs at Westminster.

monument has merit, and we owe him some regard for bringing to light one of the ablest sculptors of this age; and could the French author above-cited have beheld the rapid improvement in sculpture in that very place, since the time in which he wrote, he would allow and confess, that genius is of every nation, and only wants to be drawn forth and cultivated by proper encouragement.

Thus far every endeavour has been used to trace out those sculptors who were eminent at the different periods of our history, who were most of them patronized by the reigning Princes, and personally known, honoured and encouraged, by their respective patrons.

How different is the state of this noble art at this time; when carpenters, masons or upholsterers, whose utmost knowledge is the price of timber, the value of stone, or the goodness and quality of ticking and feathers, have the superintendance of those works in which elegance of design ought only to be consulted: Nor can we expect to form a great national character for taste and elegance under the direction of such persons, who are furnished only with mean ideas and depraved tastes, the common effects of illiberal education; and yet to such and such only our employers delegate the trust of supervising works of elegance, and call them by the borrowed title of surveyors. These people are so very assuming at this time, that not content with inspecting the goodness of bricks and timber, and giving orders to the inferior workmen in the buildings, they pretend to dictate to the man of science, and would deprive him of that merit on which only he can form his reputation, that is, his merit as a designer; several monuments, chimney-pieces, &c. executed under such able directors, are proofs of this assertion, and so far has this method of entrusting the whole to such persons care been complied with, that not long since a person of distinction gave his upholsterer orders to repair and finish his house, and also entrusted him with furnishing his library with what books he thought proper; accordingly the sagacious tradesman, having an eye to his own profit, provided him with bookcases.

cases furnished with sham books, declaring that these presses would contain many things more useful than any library in the kingdom. We cannot wonder that foreigners are amazed at proceedings so different to their own, and how would they be astonished if they were told that the decorations of the most conspicuous houses in this metropolis are the works of masons, and that sculptors are seldom consulted or employed in executing such ornaments.

Happy would it be for this country if we imitated the French in that patriotic prejudice for their own productions, which has rendered them the arbiters of taste to Europe; the rewards and honours paid to the artists of their own nation, have been the great incitement of every work of genius for which they are distinguished.

The situation in which the liberal arts are held at this time is unfair, discouraging and oppressive, and while they can be executed by substitute*; will not easily be removed. The noble patron is seldom well enough informed or too indolent to seek out the man of merit, whose talent is concealed, by necessity, by diffidence, and many calamitous circumstances, and whose spirit is subdued by the rapacious disposition of his employer, who enjoys in ease and affluence the reputation of those works which he cannot perform. This neglect of employing persons who are equal to the undertaking is our present misfortune, when this bar is removed, the genius of this country will appear no less elegant than vigorous.

* This word may possibly need explanation, it means therefore that the person who receives orders, being often ignorant of design, generally produces a drawing made by another for his own performance; this practice was discovered by a nobleman, who desired the person to alter the drawing in his presence, and finding by his evasions he was imposed upon by an ignorant pretender, he was irritated so much, that he kicked the impostor down stairs. Another instance of making use of a substitute happened when two candidates produced their models of Basilo Relievo's, before a committee of citizens, who were to determine the preference for a work of consequence. One of the judges declared in favour of a particular candidate, Because, says he, he always employs the very *best hands* that can be got. To which the rejected artist replied, Yes! yes! he has I confess a great advantage over me, who have employed *no hand* but my own.

From the great number of ancient buildings which are to be met with in almost every part of the kingdom, it appears at the first view to be no very difficult task to trace the progress of architecture, and at the same time to learn some account of the persons who were employed in their construction ; but experience has proved the contrary, of some of them it is only conjectured they were built about such an æra, and of others, though the precise time is known when they were erected, there remains not the least trace by which it can be ascertained by whom they were designed. Whether this defect is owing to the carelessness of employers, who gave themselves no trouble to record such transactions ; whether such records have existed, but are long since lost ; or whether on account of the extreme ignorance of the times the very persons employed were incapable of transmitting any account of their works, is not to be discovered : but, certain it is, that very little more can be obtained than that Gothick architecture like other sciences had its rise, its state of perfection, and its declension.

However, we learn that Gundulphus an architect, built the Tower of London, and that he also built the cathedral of Rochester ; that Peter of Colechurch a priest, rebuilt London-Bridge of timber ; that William Pintell a surveyor, and one Elyas an architect, were employed by King John, in building at Westminster ; and that Edward Fitz Odo was an architect in the reign of Henry the Third. But the celebrated William of Wickham, whose fir-name was Perrot, was the great genius of his time, and the only man who ever rose to so great a height by the mere strength of his reputation as an artist ; he was born, says Rapin, in 1324. " After he had been bred at Winchester and Oxford he returned to his patron Nicholas Wedal, who had been at the charge of his education. " He afterwards became known to Edward the Third, and having a genius for architecture, was made surveyor of the King's buildings. His direction for rebuilding Windsor Castle gave great satisfaction, and occasioned his promotion at court, where he passed through the offices of Secretary of State, Privy-seal, &c. he was preferred to the see of Winchester in 1367, and

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" soon after made Lord Chancellor of England. It is said, being represented to the King as a man of no learning, and not fit for a bishoprick, he told the King, that what he wanted in learning himself, he would supply with being the founder of learning ; accordingly he began the building of New College in Oxford, and laid the first stone himself, March the first, 1379. It was finished in seven years. In 1387, on the twenty-sixth of March, he likewise laid in person the first stone of his college at Winchester, which he designed as a nursery for that at Oxford. Upon this foundation he settled an estate for a warden, ten fellows, two schoolmasters, and seventy scholars. He died in the fourth year of Henry the Fourth, aged eighty years, and lies buried in St. Swithin's church in Winchester, in a stately monument of his own erecting in his life-time." It is to be lamented that this great man did not pay more regard to the science to which he owed the greatness of his fortune, by establishing a foundation for the study of his own art, and others that depend upon it ; had he fortunately done this, there is no saying what the consequence might have been ; possibly by this time it would have been the fashion for ingenious men to come from Rome hither to perfect themselves in the arts, and to have bartered Italian for English performances.

In the Reign of Edward the Third, those noble piles, York minister, and the cathedral at Ely, were erected ; but by whom the designs were made we are ignorant. In the same reign William Rede, Bishop of Chichester, built the first library of Merton college, and also the castle at Amberley, it has been asserted that Sir Reginald Bray, who was a Knight of the Garter in Henry the Seventh's reign, and certainly assisted at the ceremony of the laying the first stone of the chapel built by that monarch at Westminster, was architect of the chapel of St. George at Windsor *, but there seems not to be sufficient authority for this assertion, since all the ancient historians are silent upon this head.

* History and Antiquities of Windsor Castle, pag. 65.

It appears upon an examination of the most celebrated Gothick buildings, that the state of perfection of this kind of architecture was in the reigns of Henry the Sixth and Seventh, and not in that of Henry the Fourth, as by mistake it is supposed is printed in a late work. ... But to whatever degree of perfection architecture was arrived in the preceding reign, it is evident that in Henry the Eighth's time it declined extremely fast; this undoubtedly was owing to the encouragement given by that Prince to several Italian architects, who being utterly ignorant both of the Roman and Gothick architecture, introduced a kind of mongrel composition of their own; an innovation being once made, novelty supplied the place of taste, and that wretched stile of building which abounds in every part of the kingdom, and which universally prevailed in the Reign of Elizabeth, took place of the more rational and elegant Gothick stile. ... It has been said, that the celebrated painter Holbein, was one of the first who introduced this mixed kind of taste in England, in which he was followed (if not assisted) by John of Padua and others. History makes mention of several other architects, such as Lawrence Bradshaw, surveyor of the King's works, Sir Richard Lea and Thomas Larke, who was also surveyor of King's college, Cambridge; Jerome de Trevesi an Italian painter, and John Shute, of whom it is remarked, that, in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth, the Duke of Northumberland sent him into Italy, and maintained him there in his studies, under the best architects; to these are added, Robert Adams, surveyor of the works, who was an architect of reputation; but, it is certain, that architecture made but a very indifferent figure during these times, and remained in a still worse situation during the reign of James the First.

The reign of Charles the First, was propitious to the fine arts; painting has been already observed to have flourished in a particular manner in it, nor was architecture in the least behind her sister science; indeed it was next to an impossibility the arts should not gain ground under the King's patronage, who was not only an extraordinary judge of such performances, but also practised himself; he therefore knew their value to the state, and accordingly erected a Royal Academy, where gentlemen were admitted for

their education: They were instructed in the living and dead languages, mathematicks, painting, architecture, riding, fortification, antiquities, and the science of medals. Professors in every branch were appointed, and Sir Francis Kingston, in whose house in Covent-Garden, the academy was held, was appointed regent; but this great design fell with the rest of that Monarch's noble plans, and the French availed themselves of it, under the patronage of Lewis the Fourteenth. As a proof of the great taste of King Charles in architecture, it is sufficient to say, that Inigo Jones was his Majesty's surveyor-general of the works; this great man introduced the noble stile of building of the Ancients into England. His works, which are executed in several parts of this city, are universally allowed to be the standards of taste and elegance, his design of a palace at Whitehall is a performance which would have done honour to the age of Augustus; the Banqueting-House is the only part of that vast design which was executed, and may be considered as the fragment of a monument, which, had it been compleated, would have stood a memorial to succeeding ages, of the taste, genius and capacity, of that great artist. Some people have affected to find fault with parts of this truly grand design; it is said to be an imitation of Palladio, not without a mixture of the Gothick in its turrets; if to imitate Palladio be a fault, it must also be a fault to imitate the Ancients, which Palladio honestly confesses he did; and why Inigo Jones, who had undoubtedly studied the Ancients, should be denied the same liberty, cannot be very easily accounted for. As to the turrets of the palace, it seems to be equally difficult to prove they are Gothick, as they are entirely composed of the Roman architecture; however, with all its faults, it is only to be wished, that it was erected without alteration, either in the place for which it was originally intended, or else in the middle of Hyde-Park. If Inigo ever deserved censure, it was certainly for that monstrous absurdity of mixing the Roman and Gothick architecture which he did in erecting a portico of the Corinthian order to the west-end of the Gothick church of St. Paul, which was soon after destroyed by the fire.

Oliver

Oliver Cromwell, if he had been possessed of taste, had too much busines upon his hands to give any attention to works of this kind ; it is no wonder, therefore, that no other architect is recorded in his time than Francis Carter, who having been chief clerk to Inigo Jones, was made Surveyor of the works.

If the misfortunes of Charles the First were the means of overturning the polite arts, the pleasures of the court of Charles the Second, were not much more favourable to them. The King had no great taste for the arts, and the countenance he gave to some of the professors, seems to have been partial and confined ; however, he, in a particular manner, patronized the celebrated Vandevelde ‡, to whom it is said, he allowed a vessel compleatly manned and victualled for the purposes of his studies, and even went so far as to have several ships at times drawn out, in order to make mock-engagements for the use of this artist. Notwithstanding the general inattention shown to the arts, this reign produced the celebrated Sir Christopher Wren, who was unquestionably the greatest geometrical and mathematical architect that ever existed, and several of his buildings evidently prove that he possessed more extent of invention than Inigo Jones, though, in point of elegance, he fell short of that master. The publick works of Sir Christopher Wren are numerous and well-known, nor indeed need any other than that of St. Paul's be mentioned to establish his reputation.

As St. Paul's church is the principal work of this master, and undoubtedly the only work of the same magnitude that ever was compleated by one man, it may not be altogether improper to make a few observations upon this celebrated structure. The division of the building into two orders is undoubtedly a great fault, it would have had a much nobler effect, had one only been used ; as it is, the lower part of the church seems to be the work of one master, and the dome of another, the peristylum of which is very fine, and perfectly adapted to finish one single order, but, as it is, appears too heavy ; the lower part of the church is extremely elegant, but does not harmonize with the upper, the columns of the peristylum being much larger, in proportion to their distance, than

‡ Though few of his performances are extant in the Royal Palaces.

the columns of the portico. Indeed one of the most capital errors in the construction of this church is, the neglecting to shew the proper dependency of one part upon the other, and a regular harmonious gradation from the foundation to the summit of the superstructure; perhaps, if the disproportion between the length and breadth of the whole building had not been so great, it might have produced a more noble effect, a more elegant shape, and an opportunity of forming the due connection between the dome and the lower part of the building, which now seems to stand in need of such an union, by the former appearing to rest upon the roof.

It has been urged in excuse, for the choice of introducing two orders, that the want of a proper space for viewing the building compelled the architect to execute it in the manner he has done; this may be a fact, but it is pity that such a trifling consideration had any weight at all with him. Had he pursued his own better judgment as to the propriety of the building, it might have one time proved the means of obtaining a proper point of view for this vast design, and necessity might have obliged the publick to do that which nothing but necessity can ever force them to do, for as yet very little attention has been paid to publick magnificence. With regard to the turrets, it must be confessed, they are light and elegant, but with respect to grandeur, their upper parts consist of rather too many divisions, which produce something like confusion, and, if they had been more spread, or set further apart, it would have given a grace to the west-front of the church, and it would have prevented their falling in the view upon the peristylum of the dome. The figures upon the top of the building also contribute towards diminishing the grandeur of the lower parts; the human figure is the standard or scale by which the proportions of all bodies are determined, that is, whether they are large or small, and, even at this vast height, should not have exceeded seven feet and an half, which is a very large proportion for life; however they are rather more than twelve feet high, and, upon being compared with the upper and lower orders, prodigiously decrease the grandeur of the columns. Had the church been composed of one order,

these figures might have suited tolerably well, but even in that case they would have been too large; the niches on the outside of the church ought to be supplied with statues; the want of which gives a character of meanness, for they were certainly designed as places for such ornaments; a group of figures is also wanting at the east-end of the church, which at present absolutely stands in need of a finishing of some kind or other; for the same reason, the pedestals upon the balustrade, upon which there are no figures, ought to be decorated with vases or urns; this was Sir Christopher Wren's original intention, but, like many others of the same nature, was never complied with.

The church of St. Paul is, in some respects, superior to that of St. Peter's at Rome; the west-front is designed more in character, that is, it has more the appearance of a building designed for publick worship. St. Peter's rather gives the idea of a front of a palace, and the pediment is mean and trifling; the dome of St. Paul's is more elegantly shaped, nor is there any comparison between the lanterns on the top; that of St. Peter's is heavy and clumsy, and produces an ill effect, but the body of the church, being composed of one order, is very grand and noble, though it suffers by an introduction of parts which are rather too minute. The interior parts of St. Peter's are many of them extremely noble, and the monuments and decorations are grand, and introduced with a decorum and propriety, which no way affects or deforms the building, a consideration hardly ever attended to in this country. The high altar, which was designed and executed by the celebrated Bernini, is perhaps the noblest work of its kind that ever was performed: This truly magnificent decoration is most judiciously placed under the center of the dome, and produces the finest effect imaginable; in short, nothing trifling or unbecoming the dignity of the church is suffered to be placed in it; but notwithstanding the profusion of elegance and grandeur which are displayed in this celebrated building, there are many defects, and some capital errors to be found in the design; for instance, the grand isle of the church is one continued arched vault, without variety, the whole being composed of

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pannels and roses, and the windows are broken into it, in so aukward a manner, that they appear rather to be after-thoughts, and are entirely unconnected with the decorations of the cieling. Sir Christopher Wren's judgment pointed out this tasteless deformity, and the superiority of the grand isle of St. Paul's, in this respect, is very apparent, in which the windows are regularly introduced into the cieling, and the architecture forms the most noble frames, which he designed for the reception of paintings; and it is to be hoped, that one time or other this part of his design will be executed, which, if it ever should be, and the frames elegantly gilt, will produce one of the richest and most glorious roofs that can be conceived. However, it is rather to be wished, that this church may remain in its present state, than that any mean, tasteless trifles should be permitted, such as monuments of obscure persons, which could only deform, instead of becoming decorations to so noble a pile. The cathedral of St. Paul's suffers greatly for want of decorations both in painting and sculpture, there cannot be a more convincing proof than the example of the dome itself, which is painted and gilt, after viewing this noble object, the spectator finds nothing worth attending to, the rest is a mere blank, nor can all the beauties of the most noble and regular architecture, make amends for the desolate appearance of the naked pannels which every where present themselves to his notice; at the same time reproaching in the most striking manner, that total want of national taste, which can suffer one of the finest churches in the world to give no better an idea than that of a carver's shop, in which there is usually great choice of fine frames, but not one picture to be seen.

There is not perhaps a greater fault in the interior contrivance of this church, than that of perforating the east end of it. The prodigious glare of light produced by this means is useless and offensive, and totally destroys the grandeur and effect of the church in that part. Indeed this is a fault common in all our churches, but it never fails of rendering the altar obscure, which is an observation of the truth of which every one may be convinced by a little attention. In the present case however, it not only produces

duces this disgusting effect, but it has also prevented the making a proper use of this part, which undoubtedly should have been decorated with an altar of the utmost magnificence. The whole church, for want of such an object, is deplorably deficient in a part where decoration is undeniably necessary; the two middle windows therefore, ought to be stopped up, and the altar designed something like that proposed in a section of this church published by the Author in conjunction with Mr. Wale, in the year 1755.

As St. Paul's is superior to St. Peter's in some respects, so it ought to have been in the whole; and as St. Peter's was erected long before it, the greatest care and attention should have been used to improve upon every part of that design where improvement was possible; otherwise, as it has been before urged in the example of a palace, it is pity it was erected at all; the fund allowed for defraying the charge of building it was equal to any expence that could have been bestowed, for which reason, as well as the honour of this nation, it should have been made, in point of magnitude and elegance, the first building of its kind in the world, and not the second, for the whole length of St. Paul's measures no more than the width of St. Peter's, and the practice of building by too small a scale is almost universal in this kingdom; but even the original design was not well enough digested, as appears by the many alterations which Sir Christopher Wren made in the progress of this work, for some of which it is supposed he was obliged to Sir James Thornhill, whose taste in architecture was very great *; nor was this the favourite design of the architect, there is a model now to be seen in St. Paul's church composed of one order, which he preferred, and which is superior to the present in many respects.

Bow steeple and Walbrook church are examples which ought by no means to be omitted, as they are perhaps as elegant as any

* It is to be observed that some of the best architects have been produced from among the professors of painting and sculpture Raffaelle, Michal Angelo, Bernini, Peter da Cortona and others were great architects, and the three first were employed in completing St. Peter's church. In England, Holbein, Inigo Jones, Kent and Sir James Thornhill were painters, this last built the house in More Park in Hertfordshire, which is esteemed a building of good taste, he also made a great many designs in architecture, and his decorations were extremely elegant and truly architectonick.

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thing of their kind in Europe. However, Sir Christopher was guilty of the same impropriety as Inigo, in mixing Gothick with Roman architecture, as may be seen in Guild-Hall, the Court of Requests, and the palace of Hampton-Court, nor was his taste in smaller buildings very good, as may be observed by St. Paul's School and Marlborough-House: He lived to a great age, and what is pretty extraordinary, compleated St. Paul's church thirty-seven years after he had himself laid the first stone.

It is greatly to be lamented that Sir Christopher did not give the world his theory, and an ample account of his practice in the building of St. Paul's; such a work would have been of infinite use to succeeding architects, and no man was more capable of giving such an account than himself, nor would this work have been useful only to architects, other professions would have been benefited by it, as many ingenious contrivances made use of in the construction of that vast pile would have been of prodigious use in a great variety of undertakings †.

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† The great injury the ingenious part of the world have sustained by the loss of Sir Christopher Wren's papers, and the account of the building Westminster Bridge by Mr. Labelye, are striking instances of the necessity of preserving such memorials. In order therefore to prevent misfortunes of the like nature, it is to be wished that when any considerable work of this kind is began, the person under whose direction it is carried on should be required to keep an accurate journal of the proceedings, and also to give an ample description of the use (accompanied with a draught) of every engine or machine made use of in the course of the work, for which service he should be properly recompensed. And in order to render such records of universal benefit to mankind, if an historiographical office, for mechanical works, &c. was to be established, it would be extremely useful, in which office these accounts should be preserved from time to time, and after having been carefully corrected, published at the expence of the publick. For this purpose a person properly qualified as an historian, and also designers, engravers and painters might be employed by the office, and consequently every thing valuable of this kind would be effectually secured to the world and to posterity; this office might also be further extended, for the benefit of ingenious persons who should by study and application produce any useful work which their circumstances might not permit them to publish, at least not in a manner worthy the attention of the publick, such persons therefore upon making application, and proving the utility of their performances, should receive assistance, and the work be published at the expence of the office, who might reimburse themselves by the sale, and the profit arising from it, be given to the author of the performance. An office of the like kind might also be established for geographical works, by which means his Majesty's engineers might be employed in times of peace to make surveys of every part of

The reign of James the Second produced nothing of consequence, and architecture as well as every other useful art was neglected.

In the reign of King William appeared William Talman, who was a very ingenious architect; he built Chatsworth, the seat of the Duke of Devonshire, and several houses for many of the Nobility, in different parts of the kingdom; he had formed his taste by travelling, and had, with incredible labour and assiduity, designed a prodigious number of buildings and monuments, and indeed every thing in architecture which he thought worth his attention in the course of his travels, all of which are finished with the greatest exactness, and most of them stained in their proper colours. His collection was sold some years ago in Covent-Garden. Sir William Wilson, was also an architect in this reign, but as his works are not known, no judgment can be formed of his abilities. Marot was architect to the King, but what were his productions, in this country, are uncertain, his designs which he etched and published, are however a convincing proof that no man understood decorations better than himself.

The reign of Queen Anne produced the most singular architect that perhaps ever appeared in any age or country, Sir John Vanbrugh, a man of wit and genius, who as a writer, was excelled by few, as an architect, condemned by every body; perhaps it was chiefly owing to his merit as an Author that he was so ill treated as an artist, the offence his wit gave to his contemporaries was

of the British dominion, at the same time giving an exact description of every city, town and village, and also the course of every river, brook, &c. with their sections, together with those of mountains, hills, &c. which would be of infinite use in the joining of rivers, for the purpose of making them navigable; to this might be added, a natural history of each country, and conjectures for the improvement of different places; it is needless to point out the advantages arising to the publick from such an establishment, not to mention that it would at once be profitable to our engineers, and at the same time render them, by continual practice, superior to any others in Europe; perhaps, in time, the union of the Trent, Severn, and Thames, a scheme long since talked of, might, in consequence of such a plan, be put in execution, which would be both a noble and truly useful work. To both these establishments, a third might be added, for the study of naval architecture, which is much wanted, in this the art of ship-building should be scientifically and practically taught, and, from this valuable resource, a continual supply of experienced artists might be taken, who should have the direction of the works in the Royal Dock-Yards.

amply revenged by them in criticisms on his buildings, and as his stile was so extremely singular, they never wanted materials to exercise their talents. As an architect he was indeed generally a romantiick castle builder. What were his ideas of architecture, it is hard to say; he undoubtedly had a system of his own, and it is to be lamented, that so able a writer has not left some account of his principles, and his reasons for building in the manner he did, they would have proved entertaining at least, and, in some respects, would certainly have been useful, for however justly he may have been censured in many things, yet it cannot be denied that his ideas were great and noble, and he perfectly understood that subordination of parts so very necessary in the construction of great buildings ‡, though, at the same time he was entirely deficient in point of elegance and decorum; an evident proof of which he has given in the palace of Blenheim, which on account of this very subordination, its quantity and variety of parts never fails to strike us with the idea of a grandeur and magnificence rarely to be found in any other building, notwithstanding which this very structure has, from the deficiencies before-mentioned, undergone the most severe censure, and been universally condemned, because it is not in the common stile of building, and perhaps because it was built

‡ Grandeur and elegance are what is required, in publick buildings, to give satisfaction to the eye, the former surprises, and the latter, without a proper subordination of parts, is only richness; many Gothick buildings are examples of this kind, the Chapel of Henry the Seventh, in particular, is a cluster of richness, the New Church in the Strand, is not only an example of richness, but the parts are also elegant, and the whole being divided into two orders, the parts of each are small, and the subordination (without which there can be no greatness of manner) is destroyed. Had such a portico as that of St. Martin's Church been placed there, and the church been like that composed only of one order, it is very easy to conceive what a different effect it would have had upon the spectator. Lord Spencer's house, in the Green-Park, is another example of this kind, that which ought to be the subordinate part (the basement) is too large, and the state story, which should be the principal, is too small, consequently the subordination is destroyed, and the effect of that which ought to be the principal, is, by this equality of parts, rendered otherwise, the same error has been likewise committed in the design of the front of the Treasury.

by

by Sir John Vanbrugh. This gentleman's productions are very numerous, and it is something extraordinary, that notwithstanding his designs were almost universally condemned, he should have been employed in building so many considerable works, Castle Howard in Yorkshire; the Duke of Newcastle's house at Claremont, and a great number of seats in this kingdom were built by him, and the Opera-House in the Hay-Market is no contemptible proof of his genius and abilities, though it is certain that there are too many examples of his designs which appear to be the mere effects of whim and caprice.

No architect, except Sir Christopher Wren, ever had a better opportunity of displaying his genius in the great stile of architecture than Gibbs, he was employed in building and repairing several of the principal churches in London, and he has acquitted himself upon the whole tolerably well. The church of St. Martin's in the Fields is esteemed one of the best in this city, though far from being so fine as it is usually represented to be, the absurd rustication of the windows, and the heavy fills and trusses under them are unpardonable blemishes, and very improperly introduced into this composition of the Corinthian order, as it takes away the delicacy which should be preserved in this kind of building. The steeple itself is good, but it is so contrived that it seems to stand upon the roof of the church, there being no appearance of its continuation from the foundation, and consequently it seems to want support, an error of which he is not alone guilty, but which is very elegantly and judiciously avoided in the turrets in the front of St. Paul's, indeed the spire of the steeple of St. Martin's church being formed by internal sweeps makes the angles too acute, which always produces an ill effect; this has been judiciously avoided in the steeple of St. Giles's, which was a good improvement upon the other, but much deformed by the absurd rustication of the spire. The practice of rustinating should never be carried higher than the basement of a building. Upon the whole, St. Martin's church is composed in a grand stile of one order, the portico is truly noble, and wants nothing but the advantage of being seen in the manner proposed in the annexed plan. The New Church in the Strand is another of Mr. Gibbs's perfor-

performances, but is an expensive rich design without the least appearance of grandeur, which is occasioned by its being divided into too many parts, a building may be made in parts very elegant and very rich, and yet very inelegant in the whole, which is the case of this church, the division of the building into two orders has destroyed its grandeur, the steeple is a confused jumble of rich parts piled one upon another, without any regard to the shape of the whole, and has this additional fault, like that of St. Martin's before-mentioned, it appears to stand upon the roof of the church. Gibbs also designed St. Bartholomew's Hospital and a great number of houses for persons of distinction, but there appears nothing uncommon or new in them, and he was rather a mannerist in things of this kind. He likewise made designs for rebuilding King's College in Cambridge, in which he made that elegant Gothick building, the chapel, form one side of the quadrangle, and the three other sides he designed in the modern stile, without any regard to the part already built, though he confesses that this chapel is the finest Gothick pile he ever saw. This custom of mixing Gothick and Modern architecture in the same pile of buildings, has also been practised in the university of Oxford, with great success, and serves to shew that very little attention is paid to taste and elegance in places where one would expect to find hardly any thing else. If these things are suffered to be done merely because they may produce variety, they should be told, that variety may be produced in Gothick architecture without changing the stile, and that at the same time a harmony may be produced without destroying the connection of what is already built; in short, very great, noble and elegant things may be done in the Gothick taste, and, with proper attention, not prove so expensive as may be imagined. Gibbs has also given another instance of this erroneous practice at Derby, where he has to a fine rich Gothick steeple, added a church of the Tuscan order, which he expressly says, in his account of that work, is suitable to the old steeple‡.

This

‡ There is an instance of this absurd mixture in the Gothick chapel at Eaton, where the screen which supports the organ-gallery is of the Doric order, and the altar of the Corinthian; this last is so glaring an absurdity, that it must always offend the eye of the judicious observer. Sir Henry Wootton, who wrote that

excellent

This account of the progress of architecture in England, cannot be concluded with more propriety than by the mention of a name which would do honour to any age or nation, and though his rank in life will not permit his being classed among architects by profession, yet he undoubtedly merits, as a man of science, the greatest honour as an architect. The late Earl of Burlington was not only the Mecænas of architecture, but was himself a great architect; he not only protected and encouraged the most ingenious men of this profession, but condescended to put in practice the great taste and knowledge he possessed in so eminent a degree. He designed the assembly house at York, the west front of General Wade's house in Burlington Gardens, the dormitory at Westminster-school, and repaired the church of St. Paul Covent Garden at his own expence, in honour to the memory of his admired Inigo Jones; and as a further proof of his veneration for that great man, he published a most noble collection of his designs, a work that does honour to his own taste and to the English nation. This Nobleman patronized Kent, who lived in his house, nor was his patronage denied to others, many of whom he established and favoured in a particular manner; in short, it may be said that he not only encouraged architects, but that it is entirely owing to him that architecture has any existence amongst us.

Engraving, is an invention which does incredible honour to the moderns, and in point of utility, next to that of printing, is of the utmost consequence to mankind, since by means of this art the forms of many useful ingenious contrivances are preserved which would otherwise be irrecoverably lost to posterity, this art is the only one that can be said to be actually in a flourishing state among us, to assert the contrary would be an act of injustice, but it must be remembered that it is entirely owing to the efforts of a few

excellent book, entitled, Elements of Architecture, was master of Eaton college, but it cannot be supposed this was executed in his time. The school also is built in the modern stile, and said to be the work of Inigo Jones, while the rest of the buildings are entirely Gothick. In our own times another of these absurdities has been introduced between the two palace yards at Westminster, close to the Hall, which is entirely out of character, and proves that the present age are little better than the Goths they affect to despise.

private

private persons, and not to any particular encouragement from the great, that this branch of the polite arts is in a state so flourishing. It was, according to Mr. Walpole's account, introduced into this kingdom not long after its first discovery, and practised with indifferent success, by a number of persons whose chief performances were commonly confined to frontispieces for books. The celebrated Faithorne, however, is very justly ranked as the foremost of the engravers of this nation, and he certainly was a very elegant and accurate artist, but as the gentleman who has honoured his memory, (as well as many others who were not so deserving) judiciously observes, the English engravers formerly had not the opportunities they now have of copying the finest pictures in the universe; they very rarely engraved historical subjects or landscapes; and it is to be lamented that Faithorne, who drew admirably, had not been employed by some lover of the art, in engraving subjects of more consequence, had this been done, it is impossible to say what might have been produced by his labours, it is not to be doubted but his works would have excelled or at least have equalled the best of the French engravers. The honourable author above-mentioned, to whom the arts will for ever stand indebted, for the care and pains he has taken on their account, has however, (I suppose, by the vast difficulty of arranging and digesting Mr. Vertue's materials) omitted to do that justice to several English artists in this branch which they deserve, and which he certainly would have done had it not been owing to want of better information. Certainly no living artist need wish to have a more candid and faithful biographer, and it is to be feared that succeeding candidates for fame, will hardly find one of his rank, abilities and candour, to record their lives and performances. He has, however, to mention two instances only, omitted to give that due share of praise to the mezzotintos of George White, which they undoubtedly deserved; his head of Baptiste the flower painter, is superior to old Smith, or to any thing of the kind that ever was executed*. Du Guernier, who for want of a due con-

* If the English have not yet come up to the French in historical engraving, they have excelled the whole world in the branches of architecture and mezzotinto.

sideration

sideration of his works, he has but slightly mentioned, was the most extraordinary engraver of small figures that ever was in this country, not to mention that he was a man of genius also, and constantly worked after his own designs; his plates to Hughes's edition of Spencer's *Fairy Queen* are undoubted proofs of his genius and execution, as indeed are his designs and engravings in general.

It having been before asserted, that the art of engraving is at this time in a flourishing state, it is of consequence sincerely to be wished that the engravers themselves would use their utmost efforts to improve that degree of reputation they have already acquired, in order to which they should perpetually keep in mind, that the best engravers have always been those who drew best, that Faithorne was an excellent draughtsman, that both the Whites were good designers, that old Smith not only drew well, but was constantly corrected by Sir Godfrey Kneller, and that Du Guernier was admirable in this great and essential branch of the art. Drawing is the soul of engraving, and it is certain that he who can draw well will execute better and with more facility than he who with infinite labour and the most perplexing uncertainty, drudges at that which nothing but patience, and the most servile helps, can possibly enable him to execute with any tolerable degree of reputation.

There is one dreadful evil attending the pursuits of this particular set of artists, which is extremely discouraging, and that is, want of security in their property; for the penalty inflicted by the act passed in their favour is so inconsiderable, that it is hardly any impediment to piratical works. When one of these persons therefore has with great ingenuity, care and application, produced a performance which does his country and himself honour, and hopes to receive the reward of his merit, some wretch who is perpetually upon the watch for such an opportunity, causes his work to be copied and instantly deprives him of every advantage he had hoped from its publication †; surely works of this kind ought to be secured to the artist and his heirs, or at least for a term equal to that allowed for

† The circumstance is equally grievous with respect to copying models or original casts in plaster, which often prevents the publication of many ingenious productions in that way.

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literary productions, for the act of parliament is very insecure and precarious by not decreeing costs of suits with damages. It would be equally justifiable, if after an honest farmer had with infinite pains and great expence manured and sown his land, some rascally neighbour should wait the time of harvest and immediately cut down his corn and put the produce into his own pocket, nor would it be more justifiable if through fear, this harpy waited until the time of his decease, for in that case his heirs have an undoubted right to the produce of his labour; and shall the property of ingenious men alone be thus exposed to the ravages of such miscreants without hope of redress? The man who is not possessed of a certain income is expressly forbid under severe penalties, by the laws of this nation, to destroy the animal which has helped to consume his substance, and in this case there is a near resemblance between the farmer and engraver, the latter has no remedy, and must be contented with the gleanings of the field when he had an undoubted right to the whole crop; that this is unhappily the case, is notoriously verified in regard to the works of one of the greatest masters that this or any other nation has produced. Mr. Hogarth's works will be always valued and admired, and therefore ought to be as much the property of his widow, as if their value had been laid out in the purchase of an estate, of which it is to be presumed no one could possibly have deprived her, and yet this lady has been compelled to inform the world that her property has been invaded, (she might have added herself insulted) and that the publick are in perpetual danger of being imposed upon by spurious copies, and herself deprived of every advantage she hoped would arise by the sale of the works of that inimitable master.

It is greatly to be regretted that suitable encouragement is not given to one very noble and useful branch of this art, which is that of engraving medals. This it is confessed cannot be done any other way than by particular appointments, as there could not be a sufficient demand from the publick to render it worth the while of any artist to dedicate his whole time to this particular part; a part, however, which to attain to in any degree of perfection, would undoubtedly demand the entire attention of a life
if

if it were prolonged to double the number of years allotted to mankind. The coins and medals of every country have been looked upon as the distinguishing marks of their rise, perfection and declension, and are to be considered as so many brief histories of the state of the arts at the time they were executed. No annals produce greater achievements than those of Britain, nor no nation has recorded in this manner so inconsiderable a number.

It has been asserted by some French authors, that the English are at least a century behind their nation in the polite arts, perhaps when a proper allowance has been made for the vanity of that people, we may not be found altogether so far behind them as they would chuse to throw us, but at the same time we must acknowledge there is too much truth in that part of the assertion which gives them the superiority in general over us.

This fact being allowed, it may be worth while to inquire into the reason of this subordination, and to what cause it is owing that we have ever followed and still continue to follow, in this respect, a nation which in many others we have an undoubted right to precede. It cannot be owing to the want of genius or capacity, for genius and capacity are alike distributed to the inhabitants of the whole earth, it must therefore necessarily proceed from the effects of habit or custom. It is an established maxim that custom is second nature, and education with us is usually founded on custom. It has been customary therefore with the English seldom to consider the inclination of their children, but indiscriminately to adopt the same mode of education without any kind of distinction; thus those whose genius leads them to the church, to the law, and to the arts, &c. and those who have no genius at all, are educated in the same manner; and are frequently, through the inattention or caprice of their parents, placed in the very situations which should have been avoided, and in which they consequently can never make any kind of figure. Indeed it is greatly to be lamented that education is not made a publick concern, that is, that some effectual method is not taken to prevent persons who are not qualified, from undertaking to teach children such things as they themselves are totally ignorant of, or but very slenderly acquainted with. There have been more than

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one instance of school masters who could not read. It is utterly impossible that genius or capacity can be national, though there have not been wanting some who have asserted this as a fact, and who have been as liberal in the commendation of the genius of the Italians and French, as they have been industrious in decrying that of their own countrymen; but these idolaters of foreign genius ought to be informed that custom or the mode of education has a greater share in the formation of this admired genius of foreigners than they may perhaps be able to comprehend; in order to explain this matter more fully, let an infant be supposed to be brought from China and educated in England, and it may be easily conceived that he will turn out as errant an Englishman, as if he had been born of English parents, his pursuits of whatever kind will be perfectly English, nor can it be imagined that though according to the supposition of the above-mentioned gentlemen, such a person's genius must be purely Chinese, that the porcelain manufacture in this kingdom would receive any considerable improvement from the acquisition of this extraordinary foreigner.

It has been granted that the state of the arts in France has the superiority, but it has also been denied that the French possess any superiority of genius. No one will pretend to say that in respect of learning or scientifical knowledge, this nation cannot produce their equals if not superiors, for literature and science constitute a British education; It will be found that England has produced men of extraordinary erudition, and may with justice boast of the greatest names in divinity, physick, law, mathematicks, &c. in poetry we have equalled if not excelled other countries, and every Englishman reflects on it with pleasure; but unfortunately for painting, though we have painters in every branch equal in all, and superior in some, yet the general cry is, there is no painting in England, this is not the soil for painting. Yet numberless instances may be produced, that painters are not wanting notwithstanding the many disadvantages the art now labours under. In France they enjoy the advantage of every necessary publick establishment that can any way cultivate or improve the polite arts which by custom or habit, are become a necessary as well as beneficial part of education. In England no such establishment exists,

exists, instead of meeting with encouragement and cultivation, the arts are left to struggle for themselves (some feeble efforts of the society in the Strand excepted) and instead of their being made a part of education, the youth of this country are only drenched with the dead languages until their stomachs loath and nauseate every thing that wears the appearance of taste and knowledge, and consequently, instead of encouragers of learning and arts, they in time become only the patrons of buffoons, cheats and horse-courfers.

To this essential defect therefore in point of education is entirely owing that injurious circumstance so often and so justly complained of by the ingenious artists of this country, namely, want of encouragement; for how is it possible, (let his rank in life be ever so much elevated) that any man should become a competent judge of what it is utterly impossible, from his want of education, he can ever truly understand? He who can only read his mother tongue will never be able to explain a passage in a Latin author, nor can it be expected that the Nobleman who is utterly ignorant of the polite arts can form a proper judgment of an ingenious performance, or estimate with propriety the reward he should bestow on the artist who has laboured to give him pleasure, which he knows not how to enjoy, and which for that very reason, he will be at a loss how to recompence in a manner suitable to his own dignity and the merit of the artist. If it is indispensably necessary that an artist should, by unwearyed application and unremitting study, make himself a master of the art he professes in order to render his works worthy the approbation of the great, is it not equally necessary that his employer, who ought to be supposed his superior in every respect, should be furnished with at least as much knowledge of the art he patronizes as will enable him to form a judgment of the degree of excellence with which it is executed.

There is another consideration why it may be wished that taste and judgment was more cultivated among the great, it would be the means, in all probability, of rescuing numbers of ingenious artists in inferior branches from a mean dependance on the tyranny of mercenary tradesmen, who (though the very means of their existence is owing to the labours of these artists) treat them with

a rigour and contempt more unreasonable than that exercised by the Algerines over their slaves, because this treatment is inflicted upon these men in a land of liberty.

But in whatever degree of estimation the genius of the people of England may be held by some who affect to despise it, thus much is certain, that there is not a greater dearth of genius among the artists, than of taste and judgment among those upon whom they depend for encouragement, and it may be safely pronounced that whenever taste and judgment gain ground among the great, genius in its brightest form will be found in the productions of the artists of this kingdom. When it is considered in what universal esteem the arts have been held in France for more than a century past, when it is considered that the French nobility, instead of holding the ingenious men of their own nation in contempt, have vied with each other in admiring and encouraging every attempt towards the cultivation of the arts, and from a national affection have believed, and persuaded others to believe, that their own countrymen are more ingenious and more capable than any other people in Europe; it cannot be wondered that the arts have made so great a progress among them, indeed, considering the encouragement that has been given, it is more to be wondered that they have not excelled in a greater degree, more especially in painting, for in engraving no nation has yet equalled the French.

From what has been said relative to the encouragement given to the French artists by the nobility of that kingdom, it is natural to turn our eyes towards our own country and consider how and in what manner artists and their works are treated among us. If it should be said that the arts are totally neglected in Great-Britain, and that no encouragement is given to the professors, it would be doing an absolute injustice to many of the nobility and persons of fortune who are known to be men of taste and judgment, and who have not only abilities to discover merit wherever merit is to be found, but have spirit and generosity to reward it equal to that of any nation whatever; to point out these would be to expose our country by discovering the deplorable inequality of number between those

who have real taste and those who have none at all. Those among the great who love and encourage the arts are, and ought to be admired, those who neither love nor encourage them, because nature or education has denied them the happiness of understanding them, are to be pitied, but those who are desirous of possessing works of ingenuity and at the same time are mean spirited enough to endeavour at the gratification of their wishes by debasing the work and destroying the artist, ought to be detested; if there are any such, how mean, how wretched and despicable must they appear, how infinitely below the general character of Englishmen, and to what pitiful shifts must such as these be put in order to gratify their vanity and at the same time spare their purses; who, under the specious pretence of becoming Mecænas's of the arts, set forth, in the most pompous manner, that their doors should fly open at the approach of men of genius, that their busts, statues and pictures, should be subservient to the uses and studies of every one who was desirous of improvement but was destitute of such helps; it cannot be denied but such a proposal would have a very plausible appearance; but how, if it should afterwards be found, that all this parade of patronage should be directed by mean selfish views, with an intent of bringing up a number of needy young persons, who from the nature of their studies should be enabled to gratify their vanity in the embellishment of their houses at under rates; surely such a conduct would be truly desppicable; but there is no accounting for what vanity and avarice might be tempted to do, and it is to be believed and hoped, that no such practice will ever be countenanced in a country where the truly great pique themselves upon their generosity and honour.

There is a certain set of people who, to all outward appearance, are prodigious lovers and encouragers of the arts, the number of ingenious works of living artists to be found in their collections bespeak them to be no less; but alas! it is quite the reverse, these men instead of being encouragers are the greatest enemies an artist can possibly encounter, they value themselves upon the possession of whatever is curious, but at the same time they value themselves upon their art in making purchases at a low rate; at the very time they are extolling the merits of such a picture, they cannot help exulting and informing you how little it cost.

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One of these, when he meets with any thing he is desirous of possessing, will hang about the artist day after day, he will praise one part, and find fault with all the rest, he will endeavour to prejudice him against his own performance, and when once he has lured him into such a situation, makes a merit of taking it off his hands for little or nothing, at the same time perhaps advising him to do something in this or that manner, in the execution of which, if he is successful, he may probably have the ill-fortune to be cajoled out of it by his pretended friend, by the same method. But surely these men, at the very time they are thus meanly practising every little art to undervalue the performances of ingenious men, are defeating their own purposes, they are desirous of becoming the possessors of works of art, and they purchase them to adorn their houses, and at the same time to gratify their vanity, but surely no man of real taste would like to have it said that his cabinet was filled with trifling decorations of little value, that he indeed made a great show, but that his whole collection cost him a mere trifle, and was not worth any one's consideration; this would sting his vanity and mortify him sufficiently, for the truth of the matter is, while these works of art are the property of the artists who brought them into being, they are worth but little, but when once they are transferred to one of these the case is widely different, they then become matchless, inestimable, and are considered in quite another light than they had hitherto been, because their present possessor is a man of fortune. There is hardly a living artist to be found, who, if he was called upon, could not produce sufficient vouchers in proof of what has been advanced; on the contrary, there are a very few, who, to their eternal honour, are the reverse of these, and out of real love for the arts and artists, have formed collections of the works of living masters at a great expence, and who may therefore be justly esteemed patrons and encouragers of the polite arts.

One gentleman of rank, in particular, whose name cannot be mentioned with propriety, has appropriated a room in his house for the reception of English merit. Was this singularly noble example to be followed by the great, it is not to be doubted but the good effects that would be produced by such encouragement would soon become visible, and prove the means of putting a stop to the inundation of foreign

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foreign trumpery which is continually pouring in upon this wealthy island, and sweeping off in its torrent the manure which should be applied for the nurture and cultivation of the more ingenious part of its inhabitants. It is not here meant to insinuate, that good pictures or good statues, because they are foreign, ought to be despised, on the contrary such are a valuable acquisition to this country as recommend themselves either for the goodness of the design, or for the mechanical part of their execution, the value of which is perhaps best understood and admired by artists who have made those parts their particular study; but pictures which have the sanction of coming from abroad daily sell at a prodigious rate, without any other character of recommendation than that of uncouth exoticks. Even the ancient Greeks and modern Romans produced very indifferent as well as very great artists, and in our times the works of the most despicable of these performers are purchased at exorbitant prices, only because they were done by a man who has perhaps lain and mellowed a century or two in his grave.

It has been said that the society in the Strand, have made some feeble efforts towards the encouragement of the arts, and as some may possibly think this expression was meant as a reflection upon that society, it becomes necessary to explain its meaning. That the society meant to encourage the polite arts, cannot admit of a doubt, but that the method they took to bring about so noble and desirable an event was ill judged and badly conducted, will not perhaps be so candidly admitted. The great source of complaint among the artists of this kingdom has ever been the want of encouragement, not a deficiency of numbers. There have always been ingenious men, but there has not always been employments for them suitable to their genius and abilities. The great error of the society therefore was this, they set out as if there really had been no artists at all existing in England, they (if the expression may be allowed) beat the drum for recruits and immediately raised an army of raw unexperienced soldiers, who like those raised from the serpents teeth sown by Cadmus, were to cut one another to pieces, and if any survived, the

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plunder of the war (which was the premiums) being adjusted, they were of course to be disbanded and left to shift for themselves. The society instead of giving pecuniary rewards for the study of historical painting, should have bestowed honorary ones, and endeavoured by some method to have promoted the sale of the productions of the present professors, who by being thus encouraged would not have failed of bringing up a sufficient number of pupils to succeed them, of whose abilities they would undoubtedly have been the best judges.

What must have been the consequence if historical painting, (the promoting of which seems to have been the chief aim of the society): had been closely pursued by these young artists? What churches, what publick buildings, what stair-cases, are now painted, by which they might have procured employment? Pictures are banished from the former, and the two latter are filled with stucco or covered with paper. It may be urged, that to pursue the study of historical composition is to become a master in every other branch of painting, as that alone comprehends all the rest. But why should we multiply artists? If there was not encouragement for a few before, will the study alone of historical composition prove the means of providing for ten times their number? By the method the society took for the encouragement of the polite arts, it will appear that by the confluence of those who might be seduced; by the expectation of pecuniary rewards from the society, the polite arts instead of being benefited would be only rendered subservient to the mechanical *, as those who could not possibly subsist by the one

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* What melancholy consequences would follow from such a dependance, cannot perhaps be better illustrated than by the following fact, relating to the ingenious professors of coach-painting. It seems that the tyranny of the coach-makers, over this body of artists is insupportable. That fraternity, not content with a moderate profit upon a part they are unable to execute themselves, make a common practice of doubling and sometimes trebling the charge to their employers, and at the same time continue by all possible methods to reduce and undervalue the productions of these ingenious people; who, exclusive of their labour, furnish oil, gold and colours, for the several purposes of coach-painting. Nay some of them have gone so far as to employ inferior artists in their own houses, and demand the same exorbitant price for their work as they charged upon that of the ablest performers. That it may not be said all this.

to fly for relief to the other †. In fact the society in respect to its present plan, so far as it regards the polite arts, may be very justly compared to a green house, in which every plant thrives and flourishes, but upon being transplanted into the open air becomes instantly chilled, and is destroyed by the severity of the climate. The Ladies of Great-Britain have alone done infinitely more for the professors of miniature painting, than the society have done for all the branches of painting together, because, by wearing bracelets, they have at once promoted the art and rewarded the labour of the artist. This reflexion indeed naturally leads to another extremely displeasing, which is that whenever the fluctuation of fashion requires this ornamental part of dress should be laid aside, though some may stand their ground, many very ingenious persons will be obliged to seek other means for subsistence.

The French, whom we copy in their vices and follies, and whose virtues we reject, have, as has been before observed, a

this is mere assertion, it is necessary to give one instance out of many, which is a fact that cannot be invalidated.—A person of distinction having given orders to his coach-maker to make him a carriage, at the same time directed him to employ a person whom he named, the Coach-maker obeyed this command, and the work being compleated, he ordered the painter to bring in his bill; which, upon being produced, amounted to twelve pounds. It is impossible to describe the coach-maker's rage; he exclaimed bitterly against the exorbitancy of the charge, and gave the painter to understand, that he would not have dared to make such a demand but upon the presumption of his being a preferred man. But mark the end. The painter being acquainted in the nobleman's family, and rather curious to know what this moderate man would demand for his labour, obtained a sight of the coachmaker's bill; who charged the nobleman, *thirty pounds* for painting and gilding. This was some satisfaction to the artist, however, as he thereby discovered the motives which had so greatly disturbed the coach-maker, which amounted only to this, that he had got something less by the job than he expected. Certainly the greatest emolument ought to arise to that profession where the greatest abilities are required, if this was but rightly considered, it would be a great advantage to the public as well as to many ingenious persons who are now deprest, and whose works would be more elegant and better executed.

† So far had this passion for raising youth to the arts of design been carried, that it was proposed at a meeting of the artists at the Foundling-Hospital, that they should instruct the children at that place, and insisted upon it even after the gentleman who made the proposal was informed, that there were numbers of ingenious men who actually at that time were destitute of employment.

laudable partiality for the works of their own artists, and Lewis the Fourteenth, by giving encouragement to the professors, not only raised painting and sculpture, but all the arts dependant thereon, nor did he wait until the youth of his country were trained up, but by employing the then present professors, he gave encouragement to the young men, who might reasonably expect to find the same or greater if they excelled, and who in the mean time received honorary instead of lucrative rewards. By this means he raised the arts to a height unknown in that nation before his reign, which has been maintained with very little difference to the present time.

Lewis the fourteenth's patronage of the arts, at the head of which he placed the celebrated Le Brun, was of the utmost importance to the French nation. It was next to an impossibility that the royal countenance, seconded by the abilities of so great a master, should fail of bringing the polite arts into esteem and reputation. And what was at first, perhaps considered as a matter of no moment, or at least of no concern to the people, in the end was found to be of the utmost utility. The immense sums that have since been drawn from all parts of Europe for the purchase of paintings, statues, prints and other works of art, is a convincing proof that the encouragement of ingenious artists is of vast importance to a state, as well as benefit to such individuals as are endowed with powers to execute works so interesting, pleasing and profitable. As a proof, among innumerable others, of the encouragement given to painting in France, in every particular branch of the art, and of the advantage arising from such encouragement to that nation, it need only be mentioned that the celebrated Vernet, (undoubtedly in his way one of the first painters in the world), is at this time, by order of the King, painting all the sea-ports in France, for which he is paid three hundred pounds sterling each picture; from these paintings are engraving a noble set of prints by Le Bas, which do honour to the French, and are eagerly bought up by our own and every other nation in Europe. It is evident from this one instance, that the cultivation of the arts is of prodigious advantage to a country,

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since the profit accruing from works of this kind is very great, they are the produce of mere industry and application, not of expence, and a single sheet of paper, the manufacture also of France, is by this means increased perhaps to the value of half a guinea or more, which, the expence of paper and printing excepted, is clear gain to the publick.

The appointment of the most ingenious artists to the superintendance of publick works carries more weight then the generality of mankind may be willing to allow*. Le Brun was not only the president of the Royal academy, but was also chief director of the King's manufactures at the Gobelins, and it will hardly be asserted that those works were not carried into execution with more taste and elegance from his appointment, than if an inferior person, with little or no knowledge in the arts of designing, had been employed to direct them. In Great-Britain, the designing and superintendance of works originally intended to be magnificent and elegant, is generally given to persons utterly unacquainted with the meaning even of the words; how is it possible then that any work of that kind should be produced among us? If a magnificent edifice is to be erected, a common builder, little if any thing superior to a carpenter or bricklayer, in point of taste or knowledge, is consulted, instead of a regular architect; if an elegant garden or pleasure ground is to be laid out, a gardener whose utmost knowledge is confined to the nature of the growth and culture of shrubs, plants and trees, is called in, instead of consulting the landscape painter, whose studies

* How much more valuable a manufactory would Birmingham be (as well as many others) to this nation, if it was in the hands of people of taste! at present, quantity not quality seems principally to be considered, and every thing is loaded with much confused and superfluous work, which is falsely called ornament, when less labour, guided by judgment, would be much better, and every article be rendered more valuable by its elegant simplicity in shape and form, and the expence of that unnecessary labour might be added to the quality of the materials, as the making things cheap and good is of infinite advantage to commerce, as cheap and bad are certainly the contrary. It is not therefore to be wondered at if the French should supplant us in most manufactories, when it is so well known that they make elegance so much their study; and that taste is so little regarded by us, the want of which cannot but lead us into many absurdities.

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relate immediately to the subject, and who is therefore the person who should be consulted †. Nor is the decoration of the interior parts

† It is entirely owing to want of taste among persons of distinction, that the disposition of their gardens is left to people utterly unfit for such employments. A painter always considers every object as a picture, and accustoms himself to a critical examen of the parts of such objects, by which means he acquires an habitual method of adopting what he finds beautiful and rejecting every thing that appears absurd, inelegant or trifling. This practice of considering objects it is apprehended is very little attended to by any but painters, much less can it be expected from mere gardeners, whose studies are chiefly directed to objects in which they are more immediately concerned. The management of the kitchen garden, raising of flowers, and the care of nurseries, are things which generally demand all their attention, and which if they understand thoroughly is all that ought to be expected from them, but taste seems to be an affair very foreign to their business, and consequently not to be looked for among people of their profession. Such a person can have no more idea of what is by painters called effect, than a painter can have of the whole business of a gardener. But as there are pretenders in most branches of business who affect to understand things quite foreign to their own, so there are gardeners who pretend to be architects, but then their works generally discover themselves to be the productions of these sons of earth. A good painter however will hardly ever fail, let the situation be ever so bad, to produce something picturesque, and the best disposed pleasure grounds, parks, &c. in this kingdom were designed by the late Mr. Kent, who was a painter, and was the first who ventured to attack and cut up the Dutch minced-pies of Bridgeman, and others of the same sublime taste and genius.

It is impossible to lay down any particular rules for the disposition of gardens, &c. as so much depends upon situation, however it may not be improper to point out from two well known examples, what appears in each of them to be either beauties or defects, and to which and upon what account the preference is due. Richmond and Kensington gardens are both flat situations, the former is very much confined, and consequently has very little variety, it has no command of the country, which is shut out on all sides, except from the terrace, which gives a fine view of the Thames, Sion-House, &c. and a very bad one of the backs of the miserable houses at Brentford, which ought to be hid, the extent of these gardens is very great, and yet it nowhere conveys an idea of spaciousness, nor is there one opening from the garden to let in the least object to entertain and divert the eye, and the whole is a tiresome round of sameness and insipidity.

Variety is the soul of design, but it is not the affected twisting of serpentine walks that can alone produce it. The inequality of the ground is the great affair, but where nature has denied that advantage, space judiciously introduced with variety may be substituted, and produce, if not a very striking, yet an agreeable effect. Richmond Park is a happy spot in this respect, every step produces a new scene, and greatly entertains and instead of fatiguing the eye; however this cannot be obtained in Richmond garden, and consequently is not to be looked for.

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parts of buildings better considered; the historical painter is still less attended to than either of these, the grandeur of whose designs is certainly adapted to works of that kind. Instead of being required to give his assistance, his part is usually supplied by a paper-hanging maker and two or three workers in stucco.

From what has been already said it will appear, that the polite arts are very far from being in that flourishing state with us, which might naturally be expected in a country abounding in riches, and in which no expence is spared in whatever is intended by persons of distinction, either to suit their convenience or gratify their vanity. It might be imagined, that these motives alone would be sufficient to have raised the arts, because the arts, in every country but our own, are considered as the means of gratifying every

Kensington Garden, as was before observed, is not better situated than that of Richmond, nor can boast any thing like the terrace, it is also much confined as to distant views, but its interior parts are much better laid out, and have a more airy appearance, there is a variety of spacious openings, and the whole together conveys no idea of confinement, which is the great fault of Richmond Garden. This appearance of confinement in the country, is certainly wrong, where every thing should conduce to give an air of chearfulness and liberty. Upon the whole therefore, this garden, in point of design and disposition, is preferable to that of Richmond, and excepting the noble terrace, is in every respect vastly superior.

If therefore the hand of art were suffered to guide the progressive improvements of uncultivated situations, we should soon see the good effects of it in the multiplied instances of acquired beauties in every nobleman's garden. Ingenuity will supply every deficiency of nature, will extend the prospect, or encrease the plantations, will erect a temple, or variegate the parterre, will introduce a cascade, or conceal any thing displeasing. The most elegant villa will appear to the greatest advantage, when the environs, whether park, garden, or pleasure-ground, are laid out with genius; I mean where the assistances of art visibly reduce the wild luxuriancys of uncultivated barbarity to pleasing and agreeable forms; where you are equally surprised at the skill of the artist and the astonishing contrast of its original appearance. For a situation thus improved, is as much the true image of nature in perfection, as the Venus of Medicis is an exact represtation of the various graces that constitute the figure of perfect beauty, and a skilful artist would no more deviate from this principle, than he would prefer the most low, absurd or nasty subject that e'er disgraced a Dutchman's pencil, to the sublime choice of the divine Raphael.

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desire of this nature; unfortunately, however, painting is discouraged in every branch, except that of portraits; sculpture, from a want of knowledge in those who should encourage it, seems to be in a very declining way, and architecture, instead of gaining ground, seems to be retreating backwards so very fast, that, in a few years it may be expected, when a nobleman wants a design for a palace, one may be offered him according to the primitive, simple and truly antique taste, composed of nothing but sticks and dirt. In support of such a supposition, let the present taste of architecture be considered impartially, and it will be found that nothing is left for invention, nothing for improvement; the models of Greece and Rome are the standard of English architecture, unalterably fixed as such, and the inhabitants of this climate must be contented to peep out of such holes as were contriv'd by those people to screen them from the influence of the sun, which in ours is scarcely seen half the year. However this method, and the ornaments dependant thereupon, are *simple, chaste* and in *the true style*, and it would be consider'd by a person of *virtu*, as little less than blasphemy, to propose the least innovation, though convenience and propriety are sacrificed. It is true, the present age has refined a little upon the matter; some antiquities in Greece, of which the more distant ages were ignorant, or, which is full as probable, did not think worth their notice, have been ransacked and adopted as the most perfect models of taste in modern architecture.

The powers of inventive genius are, at this time so very little attended to, and the examples of Greece and Rome so firmly established, that nothing more is required to model a youth of moderate parts into a complete architect, than to put him apprentice either to a bricklayer, mason, or carpenter, under whose tuition he will acquire the great art of scoring strait lines, and setting off their proportion by scale and compass. His servitude being ended, thus accomplished and furnished with the Rudiments of Architecture, he may be sent to Rome, and after he has spent the usual time allotted for traversing that city, he may cause it to be inserted in the

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London papers, that Mr. Trowel, the celebrated architect, on account of his vast abilities, has had prodigious honours conferred upon him, and that he shortly intends to re-visit his native country, to which he will no doubt do incredible honour. The trumpet having been thus properly sounded, and the architect furnished in a suitable manner with a collection of drawings of the best Italian masters in that science, he may venture to make his appearance in London. His next business is to decorate his house with this borrowed plumage, and then get some friend to beat the drum, and stun the publick with encomiums upon this prodigy of art. This naturally will induce some person of distinction to take a peep at this phenomenon, and if he is possessed of the least spark of *virtù*, he will become almost petrified with amazement, and, in the ardour of astonishment, enquire where this great creature has been hitherto buried? The answer is obvious, Mr. Trowel is just arrived from Rome! You see every thing is perfectly Italian, his drawings, his air, his cloaths, his servants, all Italian—Bravissimo! he must undoubtedly be a great genius, Mr. Trowel's name is up, and he may go to bed when he pleases.

But, to be serious, where is the necessity of this parade of going to Rome, is there a building, or even a fragment of a building in Greece or Italy, of which we have not accurate draughts and measures? and is it not from these resources that every modern building is compiled without variation, and without the least attempt at novelty or invention †? It is very much to be questioned, if such an

† It is not hereby meant to decry or explode the established orders of Grecian and Roman architecture, and introduce whim, caprice and gothicism in their stead, it is only intended to enforce this known truth, that it certainly requires taste and genius in the combination of the different orders to produce grandeur and elegance, and that with respect to the ornamental parts of architecture they should be left entirely to the judgment of the designer, who ought always to consider the nature of the building, and the purpose for which it is intended, without perpetually searching for antique ornaments, which might with great propriety be adapted to the buildings from which they are borrowed, but are terribly misapplied by some modern architects. How absurd and ridiculous would it appear, if one of these was to adorn a church with the heads of oxen, pateras and axes, suitable decorations in a heathen temple, but in a christian country, only to be employed with propriety in a butcher's shop or slaughter house.

attempt was to be made, whether a thorough bred connoisseur would vouchsafe to bestow a second look upon such a design?

But this being the case, what becomes of genius and invention, is the farce of an architect's having been at Rome to supply the want of these, and to exclude every attempt of introducing novelty and elegance, because it is not of foreign extraction? It should seem that people of distinction in England are come to a determination to admire nothing but copies either in painting or architecture, and therefore load the kingdom with the one, and their cabinets with the other. In this view of the state of architecture, it may not be improper to suppose a person of distinction, who, with every other requisite for forming a great character, should also be possessed of a thorough knowledge in building, and that this person should, in conformity to his own ideas of novelty and elegance, require a design for a superb edifice out of the common method of practice; it is likewise to be supposed that he should be recommended for this purpose to two architects both eminent in their profession, but, with this difference, that one had been in Italy, and the other had not. The question is, from which of these it is to be presumed he would be most likely to obtain what he wanted; that is, a design in which grandeur, elegance and variety should unite to produce a whole which should be new, harmonious and regular? It may with the greatest reason be presumed, that he whose ideas had been least confined and shackled with the prejudices of a foreign taste would be the person preferred, for the insurmountable passion for Greek and Roman examples, would prevent the one from striking out any thing which was not strictly conformable to them, and consequently he could produce nothing which had not been seen before; the other, blinded by no such prejudices, would give his imagination free scope, and by a bold attempt to soar upon his own wings, produce something which if it did not perhaps quite reach the idea of his employer, would at least satisfy him much better, and these trials by being often repeated, must unavoidably produce things new, great, noble and singular.

If Shakespeare had been fettered by the rules of the ancients, his plays would have been more correct, but they would have been proportionably insipid, and the poetical wanderings of that great Author abundantly recompence the want of attention to the rules of the ancient dramatick writers.

The qualifications of a perfect architect are very extensive, according to Vitruvius; and certainly there is a great deal more required than the bare knowledge and capacity of a mere mechanick, to make an able artist. William of Wickham, Inigo Jones, Sir Christopher Wren, Sir James Thornhill, Sir John Vanbrugh, Lord Burlington, it is well known, were all men of a liberal education, well versed in the elements of science, and therefore knew something more than scoring of strait lines; they had, if I may so express it, the seeds of invention in them, and were not mere compilers from books, like many of the present age, who are no more than mere mechanical architects, totally ignorant of every branch of learning proper to lead them into the knowledge of design. Almost every one now, who can but make shift to draw neat lines, and is furnished with a few books to borrow from, sets up for an architect, his productions are dignified with the term invention, and, with many, pass current for such, though when examined by the judicious and discerning, they are found to be nothing else than servile imitations of what had been done before.

Nothing can set the present state of architecture in a better light and more explain the estimation in which it is held by people of fashion, than a transaction which actually fell within the observation of the Author, who having some business to transact for a gentleman of fortune, was by him directed to call at a particular part of the town and *consult with his architect*, about an affair of some consequence in a building which the gentleman was at that time erecting. The Author according to the direction given him waited upon the architect, but it is easier to guess than describe his astonishment, when upon his approaching the house of this artist, he discovered that he not only built houses for the living, but was also employed in the construction of those in which the dead are usually deposited; in short, he was a coffin-maker. And

indeed when it is considered in what a slight wretched manner the greatest part of the new buildings are erected, it may be very justly surmised, that there are not an inconsiderable number of coffin-makers who follow this profession, perhaps with a view to their original business, hoping they may not only bury people in the ruins of their own houses, but also decently inter those whom they have so ingeniously contrived to release from the troubles and difficulties of this transitory life. The foregoing instance serves admirably well to shew the estimation in which architecture is at present held, but to design a building is one thing, and merely to put that design in execution, another; however, to save a trifling expence, he that can only (and that too with difficulty) execute under the direction of an artist, is generally preferred to do that, of which he has no comprehension, and consequently can never understand, and which will of course be executed accordingly.

If what has been before asserted, in these reflexions on the state of the arts, is allowed to be true, that custom or habit, or in other words, the effects of different systems of education, produce what is called a superiority of genius in one nation more than in another, and if what has been also asserted is allowed that in the mode of education pursued in Great-Britain, men of genius have been produced equal at least, if not superior to those of other countries, it follows in order to prove the equality of our genius in every respect, and to give free scope to young minds, that the present system of education should be altered, not contracted but enlarged. In pursuit of the attainments of learning and science no innovations should be made. That genius of every kind should have free liberty of exerting its powers is what every one who wishes well to his country must certainly desire. Why then it may be asked, are the polite arts neglected, or rather banished from our universities? Is the study of a knowledge, which creates admiration in every gentleman who possesses it, beneath the dignity of those great seminaries of learning? Is not every nobleman or person of fortune who has acquired a competent degree of taste in the polite arts, esteemed and venerated in a particular degree, because he has rendered himself master of so delightful and ornamental a

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part of useful knowledge? It cannot be doubted that if a foundation was established in each of the universities, for the study of the polite arts, to be conducted in the same manner with those already founded for the attainments of the greater branches of knowledge, we should in a very short time perceive the prodigious advantages which would arise from such an establishment. Our young Nobility, by being scientifically taught the theory of the arts, of which they are in time to become the patrons and protectors, would be thereby enabled to judge for themselves instead of being obliged to trust to the judgment of others. It is not very common for persons of exalted rank to become authors, or to publish systems, nor is it expected they should; their station in life and the important concerns of their country, usually demand the greatest part of their attention; but the taste and knowledge they have acquired by a superior education always enables them to judge of the works of others, who are either impelled by their genius, or urged by their circumstances, to instruct or entertain mankind. In proportion as the knowledge of the polite arts gains ground among persons of rank, in the same proportion will the execution of them rise among the subordinate part of the people. No one would dare to offer a work unworthy the attention of his patron, nor would a man of true taste and scientifick knowledge deign to bestow a thought upon what was beneath his notice. This therefore would truly excite emulation, and in the same degree that taste and judgment was found among the great, in the same degree would excellence be produced among the artists. If a gentleman who had a liberal education and is naturally endowed with a good understanding, is supposed to be a judge of a fine poem or other piece of writing, and to taste the beauties or discover the defects in such performances, why should he not, if his education had been properly directed, be equally qualified to judge with propriety of works of art? And yet for want of this very habit of considering them in the early part of life it is not unusual for such persons to be extremely deficient in this particular, and though they can taste and feel the beautiful descriptions and painting in a great poet, yet shew this very person an historical picture of Raphael or Poussin, or a landscape of Claude Lorrain, and he is lost, his good sense tells him there

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is a something which he approves, but for want of a little science, he distrusts his own judgment, and in the perturbation of his distress, flies for relief and advice to a picture dealer, who has not, nor ever can have a tithe of his understanding.

The great advantages which must necessarily arise from this valuable addition to the present mode of education, cannot perhaps be better elucidated than in the instance of sending young persons of distinction to travel. It has hitherto been customary to finish their studies in this manner, and certainly the propriety of so doing is not to be called in question provided the person who is thus sent to visit foreign countries is naturally endowed with good sense, heightened and improved by a proper education. Such, and such only, are the persons who ought to be trusted abroad. There is no occasion to convince the world by ocular demonstration that Great-Britain like other nations, produces weak men as well as men of sense, foreigners will always be ready to give us credit for such commodities, though undoubtedly there are those among them who had much rather see a small cargo of the former landed in their ports, than a whole fleet of the latter; for in this instance there is a similiarity between us and the rest of the world, neither the one or the other are without a shoal of sharks, who are perpetually upon the watch, and voraciously prey upon every fool who has the misfortune to fall in their way. But the greatest unhappiness is that men of sense who travel are liable sometimes to the same misadventures, merely for want of the proposed enlargement of their education. There is for instance, at Rome, (which is the Monmouth Street of the arts,) a set of fellows whose profession is what we in England call picture dealing. This business most people know much resembles that of dealing in old cloaths, their commodities are always second hand and tarnished, but by fine-drawing and other helps, every defect is concealed as much as possible, in order to deceive the ignorant and unwary, and set off the goods to the best advantage. One of these leaches having fastened upon a young traveller (possibly a man of fine sense, but who makes the grand tour before he has seen his own country) is not to be shaken off, he officiously becomes his shadow, and teaches him to admire

alike

alike things which are despicable as well as those which are worthy of admiration. Indeed in this instance it may be said, he shews some degree of honesty, for his ignorance is commonly so great that he really knows no distinction between the good and bad himself. However, as this is the only guide our traveller has, he is, for want of scientifick knowledge to enable him to judge for himself, obliged to see with the other's eyes ; and after having been for two or three years extremely attentive to the monotony of the connoisseur who has parroted to him a jargon of unmeaning stuff, he at length arrives in his own country with a depraved taste and a thick cloud of Italian prejudice diffused over his understanding, which naturally produces a hearty contempt for the productions of his own country ; he accordingly, with all the advantages of good sense, what is esteemed a good education, and the additional acquisition of having seen foreign climates, sets up for a connoisseur and a collector, and credit is given him for all these requisites, his taste is allowed and confirmed by every body, but no one is so forward to flatter him in this particular as the English Proteus of a picture dealer, who is by turns, as best suits his interest, a Fleming, a Frenchman or an Italian, he is loud in his encomiums on the taste of this prodigy of *virtù* : In plain English, he flatters his vanity that he may the more easily pick his pocket, by imposing upon him the refuse of a foreign collection, or a smoked copy manufactured in his own garret at starving wages, for the work of some great master.

The arts in England have hitherto been depressed by picture dealers, who in the most unfair manner never fail to oppose to rising merit the works of some dead master. An instance of this kind happened about fifteen years ago when a very great personage, who died soon after, being shewn a fine landscape, the work of an artist now living, was extremely pleased with the performance and expressed some desire of purchasing it, but unfortunately happening to ask one of these dealers his opinion of the picture, he had the wisdom and goodness to say, " That it was very well, but " it was not like Galpar." This had the desired effect, the ardor of becoming the possessor of it, which was excited by the merit and excellence of the piece, was cooled because it was not like Gaspar, the pic-

L O N D O N A N D

ture though an excellent imitation of nature which, Gaspar hardly ever considered, was accordingly condemned to the hammer and disposed of by auction at a much less price than it ought to have been. Thus when a young genius makes his appearance and seems to threaten the foundation of the venerable pile of antiquity, one of the persons whose business it is to keep it in repair, rolls a great fragment of a ruined column, commonly called a dead master over him, and instantly crushes the poor wretch to pieces. This whole scene of imposition, so easily and so frequently put in practice, would certainly be prevented were the study of the polite arts made a part of the exercises of an university education; a man of sense trained up in this manner could never become the dupe either of an English or foreign bubble-monger, and we should not only establish our credit as people of taste abroad, but also save a prodigious sum of money from being squandered away in the purchase of many things which every Italian of true taste is heartily glad to see removed out of his native country, lest they should one day be discovered to be a disgrace to it.

But there remains yet another motive which will perhaps be allowed to have its weight in favour of scientific, and even practical knowledge in the arts of design. It has happened, and may and undoubtedly will again happen, that some person of rank or fortune may determine to travel not only merely to see foreign climes, but to describe whatever he finds worthy his notice whether ancient or modern, and if in so doing he should besides the necessary requisites, which form a good writer, be also possessed of taste and the power of delineating such objects as strike his fancy with pleasure, or which stimulate the desire of introducing some useful invention (to which we are yet strangers.) What a treasure will the works of such a man, thus accomplished, become to the learned world, what an honour to himself and to his country!

The arts being in themselves scientific, it is imagined they might easily and with great propriety be introduced into our universities, and connected with the more scientific studies, for painting is in fact an universal language. It has with great injustice however been urged that the study of design is necessary only to a few particular

cular professions, and that it is beneath the attention of a gentleman; but from what has been already said on that subject and the concurrent sentiments of some of the ablest men this kingdom has produced, it is presumed that this is a vulgar error, and that such a supposition must have arisen from the low estimation in which the arts have hitherto been held among us; certain it is, if a foundation in each of the Universities could be once obtained, in which the theory and practice of design, civil, military and naval architecture, geography, surveying, &c. and the mechanick arts, should be taught and properly explained by real models, there would be no necessity for sending young gentlemen of fortune to foreign universities in order to attain these necessary qualifications to compleat their studies.

The encouragement which has been given to learning in these kingdoms is prodigious, the revenues of the two universities are immense, and the number of students who have received their education in these two great seminaries innumerable, and yet perhaps a catalogue of persons of real eminence who have made any kind of figure in the world, will be found to be very inconsiderable in proportion to the number of those who have made none at all. Certainly the education of youth ought to be one of the first cares of the state, as the very genius of government depends upon it, and often the rise and fall of kingdoms. If it is considered in this light it demands the utmost attention and regard; all possible means should be used to enlarge and extend it for the benefit of mankind, and perhaps a more proper step towards attaining this desirable end could not be taken, than by making the studies of the polite arts a part of a liberal education. It is not a little to the credit of our Universities, that some of the Kings of England have received their educations in them, and if a due attention was paid to the dignity of these great seminaries, by making the studies more universal, it is not impossible but they might again be honoured with the presence of Royal Students, which would undoubtedly prove both honourable and beneficial, as such an acquisition must of course draw a great number of persons from all parts of Europe, who would be ambitious of receiving their ducation in such company; nor would the

advantages arising from such conduct be confined to the universities alone, as the whole kingdom would be benefited by it.

In Scotland there seems to have been an enthusiasm with regard to learning. They have no less than four universities, all of them considerable, and consequently the great number of persons of the lower class, who receive education from them, tends to the impoverishing of the country; there cannot surely be a greater mistake committed than that of endeavouring to spread universal knowledge in a kingdom where every effort of industry is required to make it respectable. It cannot be supposed that a man who has been brought up to the study of polite literature, will ever turn his thoughts towards the improvement of manufactures, or lend his hand to the plough. It is owing to this learned phrenzy, and to this only, that the natives of Scotland are dispersed over the face of the whole globe, their native country has furnished them with learning, and consequently with a contempt for labour; their ideas are enlarged, and their hopes in consequence of that enlargement, are not to be gratified in the place of their birth, they are therefore constrained to seek preferment in countries where learning is not so common, or where indolence gives them an opportunity of making advantage of their superior qualifications. But how grievously does this at the same time hurt the country! Would it not be infinitely more to their advantage to have fewer men of learning and more industrious individuals? Would it not be much better if the cultivation of the polite arts and of industrious ingenuity was attended to, and the people kept together? The introduction of the study of the polite arts among the more severe studies of literature, must by the very practice of the arts when acquired, prove the means of employing innumerable hands in professions where the other branches of learning would naturally fall in with them, and by their mutual assistance concur to render those who adopted such a plan a most respectable and flourishing people. If this was to be timely attended to, in a few years Scotland would wear quite another appearance, and if the good sense of that people was rightly directed and encouraged, they would no longer be stigmatized for their poverty, nor upbraided for deserting their country.

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If the kingdom of Scotland is over-run with learned men, and almost destitute of laborious people, the principality of Wales is in some respects in a much worse situation. The Welch are an industrious people, but they are more than proportionably ignorant, there is no such thing as an university in the country, and if the common people in Scotland have too much learning, the men of property in Wales have in general no learning at all; in short, ignorance is the characteristic of the Welch, as learning is that of the Scotch, and if these will not on that account stoop to laborious or ingenious employments for the benefit of their country, those of the superior sort among the Welch have not abilities to direct the laborious industrious part in such pursuits as would infallibly contribute to their mutual advantage.

As it will appear from the general intent of these reflexions, that an union of learning and the polite arts is sincerely to be wished by every one who has the least affection for his country, so it is to be deplored that no step has yet been taken to promote such an union. The noble foundations already established for the cultivation of learning, it is apprehended, are fully sufficient for that purpose, and therefore it is greatly to be lamented that the late Sir Jacob Gerard Downing, instead of appropriating his vast fortune to the purposes of endowing a needless foundation, had not turned his thoughts towards the real improvement of his country, by establishing one for the study of the polite arts, an establishment which would have immortalized his name, and have proved of the utmost benefit and consequence to this kingdom, in this and future ages.

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

PLATE the FIRST contains HYDE-PARK, with the CITY
and LIBERTIES of WESTMINSTER.

UPON the supposition of building a royal palace, it is proposed in this plate that Kensington-Garden and Hyde - Park should be laid together, and the present house and buildings entirely taken away. The ground within the circle described in the plan, in the center of the park, to be raised with an easy ascent, to the height of twenty feet, upon which the palace should be erected. The raising of the ground would produce this advantage, the whole height of the building would be seen at a great distance, and this elevation would give it a most elegant appearance and at the same time command a beautiful and extensive view of the city and country from the lower apartments, the vast area in which this palace is proposed to be built would undoubtedly render it healthy, and at the same time preserve the beauty of the materials, as from its detached situation it would not be affected by the smoke of the town, which is an utter enemy to stone, always changing its colour and spoiling the exterior decorations, as is evidently seen in St. Paul's and other stone buildings in this metropolis. For the same reason that it is proposed to elevate the ground on which the palace should be erected, it is objected against having high brick walls round the Park to intercept the view, for which either iron rails or a Ha-ha should be substituted; and if the buildings at Kensington and those on the opposite side next to Grosvenor-Square are regularly formed upon the lines described in the plan, a finer situation for persons of distinction can hardly be conceived, nor would such buildings as might be erected in those

those places fail of producing a striking effect from the palace itself, (were their fronts composed of stone or stucco) and the whole together would make the finest scene in the universe. The sides of the Park are formed by right lines, one from Hyde-Park-Corner, which might be continued and form a strait road to Brentford; on the opposite side the line falls directly in with Oxford-Road; by taking off part of the Park, at the south-east corner, it will give an opportunity of making a direct line from the New-Road on the one hand quite down to the Thames, and on the other, from the corner of the Park at Oxford-Road, to Hampstead-Church; this line from the New-Road down to the Thames is proposed as the great boundary, beyond which no buildings should be permitted to be erected on any pretence whatever. The line within the proposed plan, formed with long dots, describes the plan of Hyde-Park and Kensington-Garden, by which it appears that in order to render the proposed plan as regular as possible, the road to Kensington has been taken in, and consequently all Knightsbridge, Kensington-Gore and the greatest part of Kensington, which on account of the expence attending the purchase of so large a tract, may be accounted an insuperable objection to its ever being put in execution, but it was laid down in that manner to shew what ought to be done, rather than what is expected to be done; for that part of the plan which falls within the park-wall would have a noble effect, and perhaps nearly answer the same purposes as if the whole was executed, as the center of the design, by being set a little farther back, would allow for the original intention of preserving a free uninterrupted ride or road quite round the park, not to mention that the park might, with much less difficulty, be extended backward in a line parallel to the western road.

2. If a range of squares had been formed, each of the same size with Grosvenor-Square, with streets corresponding from the new road to Piccadilly one way, and others at right angles with them, instead of that heap of absurdity and confusion, described by the dotted lines in that part of the plan, it would certainly have been more profitable, as well as more elegant and convenient.

3. As

3. As the New-Road is proposed to be the great boundary for restraining the ruinous practice of building, on the north side of the town, so it is to be wished, that no building might be erected nearer than one hundred and twenty feet from the outermost line of it, and that this space should be divided by posts and chains, allowing fifty-two feet for the Road, eight feet for a common foot-path, next the fields, and the remaining sixty feet next the houses, to be made equal in height to the common path, and laid out with grass-plots, with a convenient space to be gravelled for a foot-path next the front of the houses*. This method might be observed entirely round the whole city, to be composed of regular fronts only, and the line might be finely broken and varied by elevated objects at proper distances; and would be profitable to the owners of such buildings, as well as pleasant to the inhabitants of London, who might, in that case, boast the most beautiful environ in Europe. It is to be wished the New-Road had been made quite strait, which might have been very easily done, as nothing could possibly have been lost by it, at present the disposition is extremely awkward. At Battle-Bridge, it deviates on account of the old road; but in its direction from the Yorkshire-String to Paddington it is made wretchedly inconvenient; it ought certainly to have been continued in a direct line crossing the Edgware-Road to Westborn-Green, as laid down in the plan.

4. Nothing can be more absurd or ridiculous than the disposition of Queen Anne's-Street, which runs parallel with Mortimer-Street, Cavendish-Square, the undertakers of which must certainly have lost their senses when they contrived an avenue so broken and disjointed, Lord Foley's garden-wall entirely stops the communication between the two ends of it, and by that means renders both parts melancholly, inelegant and inconvenient to the greatest degree. This was a notorious blunder, which no excuse can palliate, *for it is utterly impossible to suppose these streets were built before the garden-wall was raised*, if that had been the case, no private gentleman, much less a nobleman, (notwithstanding the ground was his own property,) wou'd have done so ungenerous and ungenteel

* This distance from the road would greatly prevent the houses from being annoyed with dust.

WESTMINSTER IMPROVED.

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a thing, as to build a garden-wall directly through the center of so fine a street merely for the sake of extending a London garden, a thing in itself rather unnecessary, as the house commands an uninterrupted view to Hampstead and Highgate, and undoubtedly had the street been then built; the line of it would have been kept, and have given opening enough for an elegant terrace, but no such street existing at that time, his Lordship was undoubtedly justifiable in extending his garden to what length he pleased, upon his own property, on this consideration, that as he had no neighbours he could not possibly prejudice or annoy them; neither his Lordship nor any one else could ever imagine that any set of men would take it in their heads to throw away their money in building two streets (for so in fact they are) and call them one, which should each terminate against a brick-wall, and indeed this seems to be that Nobleman's opinion, in a plan published under his own direction of a design for a new square, in which he very judiciously distinguishes them by the names of Great Queen Anne's-Street, and Little Queen Anne's-Street. This whole plan is marked in its proper place by dotted lines, and at the first view shews that Nobleman's intention could never be to obstruct any street or opening whatever, as in order to keep the views of Hampstead and Highgate he has sacrificed so much valuable ground, and indeed has given such a plan, as, were it not for that very consideration, must appear to be a very injudicious, inelegant and trifling performance. This noble solicitude therefore for the preservation of an uninterrupted view and freedom of communication so much to be admired, has alone been the true reason why so many very inconvenient acute angles are seen in that disposition, by which it appears that the houses (if it was possible to build any upon those angles) must be extremely inconvenient and ungraceful, and evidently shews that his Lordship, *waving all design of profit, directed his attention only to the accommodation of the publick, with a spirit truly laudable and commendable;* however, for the sake of variety and the consideration of the great value of the ground in that part of the town, another design is with the greatest humility substituted in its place.

5. Near

5. Near the Tabernacle in Tottenham-Court Road, a circular area, by way of variety is proposed, of seven hundred feet in diameter, the curvature of which in a house of thirty feet in front, is no more than three inches and three quarters, whereas the Circus at Bath is only three hundred eighteen feet in diameter, which produces a curvature of eight inches and an half in a front of thirty feet. It is a little surprizing that among the great number of squares in London, not one is to be found that is regularly built, on the contrary it is hardly possible to conceive any thing more confused and irregular than the generality of them are*, with a view therefore to this great defect, the circular plan now offered was designed, and although eight streets are given, yet, as so many avenues produce a multiplicity of angles, it would be better to have no more than four openings. In the center of each quarter, a grand principal building should be erected, the front of which should be made to project moderately and be regularly designed in harmony with the rest of the buildings. In the midst of the area a large basin with a fountain or some other object should be made, suitable to the magnificence of the whole; this basin might be surrounded with verdure encompassed with a gravel walk, the whole inclosed with iron rails, and no innovation whatever in the design of the buildings should be suffered to be made, in order to preserve the grandeur of the whole. It cannot be denied that a work of this kind would have a noble effect, and become one of the principal ornaments of this city. Nor is this design at all improbable, there is no doubt but more buildings will be erected, and if this idea was executed, it must necessarily prove advantageous to the undertakers; the novelty of the design, the elegance and spaciousness of the area itself, and above all, its magnificent appearance, would combine to render it the most desirable situation for persons of rank and distinction, that can possibly be imagined.

6. On the other side of Tottenham-Court Road an opening of an Octagon form is laid down, and if the square between that and

* The clumsy brick piers in Grosvenor-Square, which are incumbrances, should be removed, and the whole new modelled in the manner hereafter mentioned in the design of a circular area.

the British-Museum should be thought too near it, this last might be easily thrown into streets.

7. As it may be readily supposed that all the ground between the town and the New-Road will be built upon, it may not be improper to dispose of that contiguous to the Foundling-Hospital in the manner described in the plan.

8. Grays-Inn-Lane might be improved, by the method laid down in the plan.

9. Great Ormond-Street is continued to Southampton-Row one way, and to Grays-Inn-Lane the other.

10. Theobald's-Row is continued into King-Street, and the King's-Way widened. The wall of Grays-Inn-Gardens should be taken down, and iron rails substituted.

11. Bedford-Row is opened into Holborn, and the line continued to Lincoln's-Inn Gardens, to be terminated with an iron gate.

12. Red-Lion-Street is widened at the end next to Holborn.

13. North-Street is continued into Great Ormond-Street.

14. New-Street is opened into Red Lion-Square.

15. One end of Southampton-Row and King-Street is widened, and likewise Queen-Street.

16. St. George's-Church Bloomsbury is detached and disencumbered from the buildings; and streets opened north and south.

17. Hart-Street is continued into Soho-Square, and widened next Red-Lion-Square.

18. Two spacious streets are opened into Broad St. Giles's, and one of them continued to Hanover-Street, Long-Acre.

19. Supposing the streets near Bedford-House, and the British-Museum to be built as in the plan, the gardens to those houses will form spacious squares, that would be pleasant to the neighbourhood if there were iron rails instead of a coop'd up brick-wall.

20. Holborn is widened at the upper part next Drury-Lane.

21. St. Giles's-Church is disencumbered, and according to the plan may be seen from five different stations.

22. The buildings in Oxford-Road, at the end of David-Street, are taken away, and that end of the street widened and continued in a line through Mary-le-Bone to the New-Road, instead of

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following the awkward twisting of the old way, as it does at present, which is shewn by the dotted lines in the plan.

23. Tenderdown-Street, Hanover-Square, is continued into Bond-Street.

24. Marlborough-Street is continued into Swallow-Street.

25. Grosvenor-Street is continued to St. George's-Church.

26. St. George's-Church, Hanover-Square, is disencumbered from buildings in order that it may be properly seen.

27. Stretton-Street is opened from Piccadilly into Berkely-Square, and from thence the communication is continued through David-Street to the New-Road, and the whole is intersected by a great number of regular streets.

28. Evans's-Row is continued into Berkley-Square.

29. Vigo-Lane is continued into Curzon-Street.

30. Old-Bond-Street is widened.

31. A great line of communication is formed from Clifford-Street through Silver-Street, Queen-Street, and from thence continued to St. Giles's.

32. Bruton-Street is widened at the end next to Bond-Street.

33. The ground on which Burlington-House stands is laid out into elegant streets, which form the following communications, *viz.* from Burlington-Street to Pall-Mall, from Piccadilly through Saville-Row into Conduit-Street, and from Piccadilly through Cork-Street to Conduit-Street-Chapel, (which chapel is disencumbered) the demolition of Burlington-House may be thought an extraordinary proposition, but when it is considered what a prodigious improvement will be made in those streets about Burlington-Gardens, which are at present very inconveniently situated, that the rents of those very streets will be considerably augmented, and that the publick will lose nothing in point of elegance but the removal of the dead-wall in Piccadilly, every objection that may be made to this alteration it is imagined will entirely vanish.

34. Swallow-Street is widened and terminated by St. James's-Church, it is great pity this church, which has been lately repaired, had not been stucco'd. In fact no publick edifice ought to be built with brick unless it is afterwards stucco'd, for a mere brick-face in such,

Such buildings always makes a mean appearance, and for the same reason the steeples of stone-churches which are covered with lead and intended by their form to imitate stone, ought to be kept painted of stone-colour; the dome of St. Peter's-Church at Rome is composed of the same materials with the rest of the building, and consequently has a much grander effect than that of St. Paul, which is covered with lead; for which reason the dome of St. Paul's-Church ought to be painted of a stone-colour, which would bring the turret and the body of the church into harmony, and produce an effect in the whole that would greatly contribute to the grandeur of its appearance in every point of view; as the building with stone is so very expensive in this metropolis, it is to be lamented that encouragement is not given to some ingenious person to find out a stucco or composition resembling stone, more durable than the common sort, and in which exterior ornaments might be easily wrought at a very easy expence.

35. A street is opened from the top of the Hay-Market of the same width, and continued to Oxford-Road, opposite to Winslow-Street, which is also continued of the same width to the street now building at the back of the Middlesex-Hospital, and a street fifty feet wide is carried on directly opposite to Winslow-Street, to the New-Road.

36. Marlborough-Street is continued to Hanover-Square.

37. King-Street, Soho, is continued into the New-Street proposed to be opposite the end of the Hay-Market.

38. Broad-Street is continued into Dean-Street one way, and into King-Street on the other.

39. Glass-House-Street and Brewer-Street are widened, and continued into Dean-Street.

40. Mary-le-Bone-Street and Shug-Lane are widened, and laid down on parallel lines.

41. Castle-Street is continued to Swallow-Street and Shug-Lane.

42. Gerrard-Street is continued cross Princes-Street, and comes at right angles into the New-Street proposed to face the Hay-Market.

43. Little-Street is made fifty feet wide, and continued through Leicester-Gardens to Great Newport-Street, this would render Little

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Newport-Street useless, which might therefore be built upon; and the bad situation of this street at present renders the property of very little value; Lisle-Street is also continued through Princes-Street until it falls into the New-Street proposed opposite the Hay-Market, at right angles. Dean-Street is continued into Lisle-Street, and Greek-Street through Hayes's-Court. Rider's-Court is opened, and continued into the New-Street proposed from Leicester-Fields, to Long-Acre, &c.

44. An opening of sixty feet wide is made through Leicester-Square from Piccadilly and continued into Long-Acre, the west end of Queen-Street, called the Devil's-Gap, is here opened equal to the breadth of that street, obliquely from Long-Acre, which is more convenient for carriages than it is at present.

45. From the opening at the north-east corner of Leicester-fields before-mentioned, a street of fifty feet in breadth, making an acute angle with Long-Acre, is carried through St. Martin's-Court, crossing St. Martin's-Lane into New-Street, which is kept of the same breadth to the end of King-Street. It may not be improper to observe, that a carriage from Coventry-Street before it comes into Long-Acre, makes six right angles, and from the same place into Covent-Garden, no less than eight, which, exclusive of the length of the way, is on account of the hazard and difficulty in making short turnings very dangerous in the night *.

46. Hedge-Lane, Whitcombe-Street, Prince's-Street, Old-Soho and Wardour-Street, are made sixty feet wide, and form one noble street from Cockspur-Street to Oxford-Street, directly facing a new-street now building of the same dimensions leading to the Middlesex-Hospital.

47. An opening is made from the upper end of Great Suffolk-Street, which is nearly on a line with Rupert-Street, which is continued by removing some few houses at the upper end, and opening Walker's-Court into Berwick-Street.

48. The narrow end of Compton-Street is widened, and the angle taken off, to ease the dangerous turning into Knave's-Acre.

* A less expensive scheme might be put in practice on this spot, but not so convenient for the publick as the above.

49. The upper end of Jermain-Street is opened into the Hay-Market, and Market-Street is carried cross Piccadilly into Castle-Street, continued to Mary-le-Bone-Street, and Norris-Street is widened.

50. The Royal Stables at the Meuse being inconveniently situated, it is supposed a more suitable spot might be found for that purpose, and a square of elegant houses is laid down in the plan in its place, which might, with great propriety, be called King's-Square, and a statue of his Majesty be erected in the center; a street of seventy feet in width is opened opposite to St. Martin's-Church (which is the width of the Portico) giving a noble view of the front, and on the west side of the Square another street of the same dimensions which runs into Whitcomb-Street, and is continued a little obliquely into the Hay-Market, and directly opposite by removing the Bell-Inn, a fine street is carried into St. James's-Square, the end of King-Street is opened, and an uninterrupted communication is made from St. Martin's-Church to St. James's-Street. Four streets are opened from the angles of this square, one of those on the north side communicates with Leicester-Fields, and by removing the Stable-Yard belonging to Leicester-House is continued and comes in a line with Frith-Street, which would leave sufficient width for two houses between that and Nassau-Street and prevent both a nuisance and the melancholy appearance of a dead wall; the other falls into Hemings's-Row, which is widened, the two streets on the south side fall one into Cockspur-Street, opposite to Spring-Garden, making an entire communication from thence to Soho-Square, and the other points to Charing-Cross opposite to White-Hall; it is apprehended this square, if executed with the surrounding improvements, would be of very great advantage to the publick as well as beneficial to private property.

51. The Hay-Market is continued to St. James's-Park, where a triumphal arch may be erected as a termination to the view, and make a noble entrance.

52. The end of Pall-Mall next the Hay-Market is widened, and from the proposed opening from the Hay-Market into the Park, all that side of Pall-Mall next the Park is thrown into one regular grand range of buildings, with a central principal elevation, which should be made to answer the center of St. James's-Square, and all

the houses between Pall-Mall and the present entrances from thence into the square are taken away, the center building would make a magnificent palace for some of the Royal Family, and the rest of the buildings would be suitable to persons of the first distinction, and the whole together produce a scene hardly to be paralleled.

53. Whenever it shall be determined to erect a Royal Palace, if the preference of situation should be given to St. James's instead of Hyde-Park, it is presumed the design laid down in the plan would be at least as advantageous an one as can be contrived in that place, though far inferior to that designed for Hyde-Park, in this case particular attention must be given in order to obtain space, and for that purpose all the buildings in the line on both sides St. James's-Street to Old Bond-Street are taken down. This removal would give opportunity for raising the ground twenty feet, at St. James's next the Park, which would form a noble and spacious terrace, from which his Majesty might occasionally review his troops in the Green-Park, or at particular times be seen by his subjects without inconvenience, the terrace raised in this manner would bring the ground on which the palace stands nearly on a level with Piccadilly. Upon this spot the plan of a magnificent palace is given, fronting East and West, composed of three quadrangles, the entrance to each of which are opposed to three great streets, the center to King-Street, and the two others to Pall-Mall, and a new street of the same width as Pall-Mall that runs into York-Street, by this disposition every possible and desirable advantage would arise. If this situation could be obtained, the East front might be viewed from three very considerable avenues, and there can be nothing finer than the South and West fronts, which are surrounded with verdure; this last and principal front has a fine view into the country, to preserve which no buildings should be suffered to be erected or to continue opposite to it, and instead of the present wall in the Green-Park, iron rails or a Ha-ha, should be substituted as proposed in Hyde-Park. A line is drawn from St. James's-Street to Hyde-Park-Corner, without break or projection, which would have a fine effect, and the situation of the buildings on the other side of Piccadilly would be rendered extremely pleasant, and improve the view, especially if they were to be all regularly designed and built with stone or stucco'd;

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the Green-Park might be made a hanging level, and planted in a proper manner; in the great boundary line a small part of the Green-Park is taken off in one place and added in another, as may be seen by the strong dotted line which marks the boundary of the Park †. If the foregoing design was to take place, Hyde-Park-Corner would necessarily require some improvements to give it a corresponding character with the whole, and therefore it would be proper to erect a grand triumphal arch between the two Parks which would be a fine object from the palace, and mark with the greatest propriety, the principal entrance into this great and opulent city. Indeed something of this kind should be erected at every principal entrance to the city of London.

54. The Royal palace being situated as above, it may be presumed that the Queen's-Palace would be rendered useless, and accordingly in the plan it is taken down, as are all the adjacent buildings that incumber the Park, which is proposed to be railed entirely round, the Wilderness is taken away, and the whole is proposed to be raised; divided and planted in the manner described in the plate. The raising of the ground will be of infinite service to the Park, as it will prevent damps, the clearing away the Wilderness will give it chearfulness and add greatly to its appearance; and if an Equestrian statue or group of figures was erected in the center of the Parade it would have a fine effect, a spacious street is carried round the Park which would be of infinite service to the publick, and the Park would be thereby rendered a more considerable object than it is at present. This delightful spot being so extremely useful and pleasant, every part of it should be kept sacred, for which reason it is rather enlarged in the plan, nor should encroachments ever be suffered to be made upon it on any account; if the proposal for the alteration of Pall-Mall was to take place, the rails should be continued in a strait line to Spring-Garden, which would consequently take a slip off from the garden belonging to Carlton-House, which might be well spared, as it is at present of no real use. It is greatly

† In this position of a palace it would not in the least interrupt St. James's-Park, and the Green-Park would give sufficient garden-room (without being overlook'd) which St. James's very much wants.

to be lamented that the Royal indulgence is so much abused as it is, with respect to the Park, it seems at present to be in a fair way of becoming entirely deprived of its verdure by the unaccountable liberties which the common people take of trampling upon every part which their caprice and insolence suggests. This, together with the usual practice of training recruits in several parts of it, will if not timely stopped prove the utter ruin of the most delightful spot about the metropolis. To this may be added, the shameful neglect of the Park in general, of which not the least care seems to be taken in any one part of the publick walks, but every thing is going to ruin as fast as possible. The abuse of the Park is not a little aggravated by the great number of private doors which are suffered, and are at once a reproach and a disgrace to it. When the Old Mall was altered and gave place to the present form, all distinction between the publick walks was destroyed, for this reason the people of Quality, who had hitherto uninterruptedly possessed that place while it was kept in order, deserted the Park in disgust, and the middling people, who could not hope to have respect enough shewn them by the inferior sort, were compelled to retreat to the Green-Park, which by this practice is also in imminent danger of being deprived of every single blade of grass, because no limitation is set to the inclinations of those who usually walk there. The Mall in a summer's evening was formerly one of the highest entertainments that can well be conceived, it was here that the people at a respectable distance could behold to advantage some of the greatest personages and most beautiful objects in the kingdom, and the order and decorum in which it was kept at that time, was sufficient to deter the meaner part of the people from intruding into a place which seemed by no means suited to persons of their appearance. For this reason it is to be wished that the old form was reinstated, with the addition of a stone kirb in preference to the wooden one formerly used, and that it might be once more laid with cockle-shells, instead of the miserable coarse gravel with which it is so despicably covered at this time. If this was done, the Park might probably recover its consequence, and again become the theatre where beauty and nobility might be rendered conspicuous and familiarized to the publick,

publick, who at this time are in general acquainted only with mere names and titles.

55. A spacious opening is made at Spring-Gardens from the Park, and continued to Charing-Cross, opposite to the Strand.

56. A strait line from Northumberland-House is drawn to White-Hall, and two considerable streets are formed which run down to the Thames, one of them directly fronts the Admiralty, which, supposing it to have been a good building, would have had a fine effect from the River. There is no doubt but the execution of these streets would be both useful and elegant, as well as profitable, the situation is a very desirable one, but Scotland-Yard as it now stands is nothing more than a scene of desolation and deformity.

57. A center-piece and a similar building to the Banqueting-House is added, the entrance to which falls directly opposite to the Horse-Guards, the inner court forms a square of three sides next the Thames, two of which are composed of colonades, and the fourth side is open to the Thames. The center and additional building might with the greatest propriety be appropriated for the use of several offices appertaining to the government; the whole would have a very noble effect, and be a means of introducing a publick ornament truly elegant and useful.

58. Privy-Garden is formed into a square, and on the north and south sides openings are made to the Thames, which last is continued to the Park. The present form of this advantageous spot is by no means equal to its situation, and exhibits at best but an indigested heap of whims and absurdity.

59. The shadowed part between the ends of Parliament-Street and King-Street next to White-Hall, is designed as one of two places proposed to be converted into a town-hall, or inferior court of justice for the city and immense liberties of Westminster, a convenience which is extremely wanted and which will make a fine termination. The mean obscure spot in King-Street, where the courts are at present held, is an insuperable objection to the attendance of many of the gentlemen who are in the commission of the peace for the city of Westminster, by which means every transaction of that court falls into the hands of certain dealers

usually distinguished by the appellation of trading justices, who will give their attendance in a place where others, who love decency and decorum, cannot prevail upon themselves to be seen; and the result of this inconvenience is, that justice is no doubt usually administered as it may. Certainly a respectable building, conveniently situated for the administration of publick justice, ought to be erected, and it is to be lamented so great and opulent a city as Westminster is not under better regulation, and governed in the same manner as its sister city, whose laws and privileges are salutary and extensive, and render it an object of respect and dignity; why the city of Westminster should so long have retained only the name without the privileges of a city, when it is nearly as large as that of London, and consequently requires to be as well governed, is a question that deserves to be answered, but must be left to those who are more immediately concerned in an affair of so much moment.

60. King-Street in its present form is entirely destroyed, and a new street opened to the north door of the Abbey, one side of which is in a line with the square proposed to front the Abbey; the proposed improvement of a square opposite to the Cathedral will not only have a fine effect in point of view, but will also be the means of removing that intolerable nuisance of a green-market, which according to the unaccountable tastelessness of modern undertakers, is almost thrust under the very walls of the church, when it was impossible to turn round without observing a number of situations much better adapted for that purpose. It is hardly possible to imagine that so fine a building as the Abbey was originally intended to be crowded up with littleaultry hovels. Dr. Wilcox, the late Bishop of Rochester, who was a gentleman of taste and judgment, swept away all those houses which stood close to the church, between the north door and west end of it, and had he lived, in all probability, would have demolished the remainder, as they damage the building as well as hide it; it is pity his original intention is not now put in execution, but above all things that dismal horrid goal the gate-house ought to be pulled down, and accordingly in the plan it is thrown open, and Tothill Street

Street widened, which gives a fine view of that part of the Abbey hitherto blocked up, and upon the repairs of which so much money appears to have been thrown away, because it never could be seen properly, and consequently a much less expence would have answered the purpose.

61. Charles-Street is continued cross King-Street and Parliament-Street to the Thames.

62. A new street is made between King-Street and Duke-Street.

63. Duke-Street is continued into the Park at one end, and at the other into a new square, formed in St. Margaret's Church-yard, and from thence to Dean's-Square, the Church is disencumbered, and Dean's-Square is made larger than it is at present proposed to be; Smith-Street is made to open in the center opposite to the continuation of Duke-Street, and another Street at the west end of this square runs from the Park to the Thames; the reason for enlarging this square and making the last mentioned street is, that the communication will be greatly improved, and the ground to be made use of on this occasion now lies in ruins.

64. The part shadowed on the plan opposite to St. Margaret's-Church between the end of King-Street and New-Palace-Yard, is intended to point out another situation for a Court-House or Guild-Hall for the city of Westminster, which perhaps is a better situation than that at N° 59. as it is much larger, and has the further advantage of being insulated.

65. The House of Lords and Commons, Westminster-Hall, and all the surrounding buildings are entirely taken away, and a new grand design, occupying in the whole, exactly the same ground, is proposed; this pile of building stands in one noble area, the ground to be raised about twelve feet, on account of the rising of the tides, and a large street is opened running south to the Thames, and another at right-angles, crossing Dean's-Square to the chapel in the Broadway. The general received opinion, that Westminster-Hall is a fine ancient Gothic building, will no doubt be objected in opposition to this design; it is true, that Westminster-Hall is a large ancient Gothic building, but that is all that ought to be said of it, neither elegance or beauty is to be found

in it; and if the several courts of judicature were held in so many separate rooms in Palace-Yard, provided they were only roofed to keep out the rain, they would in winter, perhaps, be equally warm and convenient; if the ideas of gloominess and horror are considered as necessary to grandeur and elegance, then indeed Westminster-Hall is grand and elegant. It is commonly urged that the roof is remarkably fine, and it is at the same time said to be the largest in England, perhaps in Europe, that is supported only by walls, but this is nothing more than a vulgar observation, when the prodigious high pitch of the roof, the thickness of the walls, and the advantage of the truss is considered, this wonder ceases; and there are many barns in England which support larger roofs, in proportion to the strength of their sides, than this boasted Gothick edifice, which is so much admired and applauded on this account. In the plan the terrace of the front next the River is swelled in order to give room, and at the same time will have a fine effect both from the Thames and the bridge, and preserve a character and decorum suitable to a building in which the laws of this great Kingdom are formed and executed.

66. The College-Garden might very easily be improved and made more cheerful, by throwing it into a regular square, and taking down the dead wall and erecting a dwarf one with iron rails; St. John's Church is opened to the Thames, and indeed if the whole of that wretched part of Westminster was improved and disposed in the manner pointed out in the plan, it would be better for the publick, more advantageous to the proprietors, and convenient to the inhabitants in general.

67. Having proceeded to the extremity of Westmister, it becomes necessary to return back to that end of the Strand which is next to St. Martin's-Lane and opposite to Northumberland-House, the projection made in that part is in the plan taken off, and Cockspur-Street in some places is made strait.

68. The lower part of St. Martin's-Lane is widened, especially that fronting the Church, in order to give room for coaches to turn, and the buildings which are about the church are detached, forming a regular paved square, from which carriages are excluded; some
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of the houses are also thrown back in a line with the body of the church, by which means the portico will project and have a fine effect from Northumberland-House; at present the expence bestowed on the exterior part of that church answers very little purpose, there being no one point from whence it can possibly be seen to advantage, which is greatly to be lamented, as this is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent in London*. To finish the improvement in this quarter Little St. Martin's-Lane is likewise widened, and continued in a right line to St. Andrew's-Street at the Seven-Dials.

69. Castle-Street, Leicester-Fields, and Porter-Street are widened, and continued into Litchfield-Street, by which means the dangerous turning at the corner of Bear-Street is taken away.

70. Hog-Lane is widened and continued in a right line to Oxford-Road, the corner of Tottenham-Court-Road is taken off for the convenience of carriages, and if the lines of Tottenham-Court-Road were continued as in the plan, it would give a fine view of St. Giles's-Church, the strong dotted lines continued from Oxford-Road to High-Holborn shew what a prodigious improvement might be made by joining those two streets in that manner, instead of the awkward curve made at Broad St. Giles's, which answers no end but that of obliging passengers of all kinds to go out of their way; and this would make one of the noblest streets in Europe if well built.

71. A street is formed out of the ruins behind Monmouth-Street from the end of Compton-Street, into Broad St. Giles's.

72. Queen's-Street at the Seven-Dials, and Short's-Gardens are widened and carried to a new street proposed, at right angles from Hide-Street into Great-Queen's-Street fronting the chapel, and another street is proposed to run from Litchfield-Street Soho, into Little Queen's-Street; all which improvements, if properly attended to, must occasion a prodigious alteration in the value of property in these parts. It is said that an estate which formerly brought in

* Can any thing be more indecent, absurd and tasteless, than the placing a paltry brick watch-house directly in front of the New-Church in the Strand? Where is the use of bestowing expence on the outside of buildings, if these nuisances are suffered to be erected? This, in particular, not only hides the structure, but spoils the street.

L O N D O N A N D

four thousand pounds *per Annum*, does not at this time produce four hundred. The situation of this part of the town is unexceptionable, but the disposition is extremely bad, and is the true reason that the buildings are either wholly deserted or wretchedly inhabited.

73. James-Street in the Hay-Market, Blue-Cross-Street, Orange-Street, Hemmings's-Row, Chandois-Street and Maiden-Lane, are widened, in order to render the way more commodious from the Hay-Market to Southampton-Street, and from the bottom of Chandois-Street a convenient outlet is made into the Strand. These improvements will make a very convenient communication to the theatres and other parts.

74. An opening is made from Southampton-Street into Denmark-Court, which communicates with Exeter-Street, and makes a convenient passage from thence into Bridges-Street.

75. A spacious street is carried down to Hungerford-Stairs from the south-east angle of St. Martin's-Church, in which case the church will be seen from the Thames, and by this means the ground occupied by the market, which is of little or no use, will be much more profitably employed, as it is extremely well situated, and houses never fail of letting well in any of the streets leading to the river.

76. Bedford-Street is continued at one end through Half-Moon-Street and Durham-Yard to the Thames, and at the other end into Long-Acre, from whence it opens in two directions, one to the Seven-Dials, the other to Tower-Street, &c.

77. Durham-Yard is divided into streets leading to the Thames, which will answer the ends of the proprietors better than if it was formed into a square, as less room will be lost. York-Buildings might be also greatly improved, as will appear by inspecting the plan and comparing the present design with the old one. But supposing the market which is at present kept in Covent-Garden was to be removed, it could be carried no where with more propriety than to Durham-Yard, the situation of which is most conveniently adapted for the purpose of such a market; this alteration would prove a double advantage, that ruinous place wou'd be made both useful and profitable, Covent-Garden would be rendered one of the most elegant

elegant squares in Europe, and on account of this improvement, and its advantageous situation, would, by the increase of the value of property, amply recompence the loss occasioned by the removal of the market. If this very desirable alteration was to be made it would become necessary to rebuild the Piazzas, which are in a ruinous condition, this should by all means be done with a strict adherence to the present plan, than which nothing can be more noble and convenient, and if at the same time the houses on the south side were taken down and rebuilt with Piazzas, and the buildings on each side of the church built in character with the rest, and the roof of that elegant structure covered with slates instead of those wretched mean looking tiles, the whole together would form one of the noblest and picturesque scenes in the Universe.

78. A street about thirty feet wide is carried from Henrietta-Street, opposite the passage into the Church-Yard, to the Thames, and another from King-Street into Long-Acre, opposite Mercer-Street, which will be of much greater advantage than the mean inconvenient courts which are at present built on that spot.

79. The upper end of James-Street, Covent-Garden, is widened, and made equal to the lower, and Cross-Lane and King-Street are continued of the same width to Broad St. Giles's.

80. Southampton-Street is widened at the end next the Strand, and continued to the Thames.

81. Henrietta-Street is continued in a strait line through May's-Buildings and Bedford-Bury, into St. Martin's-Lane.

82. A street is formed from the south-east corner of Leicester-Fields and continued across Castle-Street and St. Martin's-Lane to Bedfordbury, which is widened, and making an angle through Chandois-Street comes opposite to Buckingham-Street in the Strand.

83. A new-bridge is designed from the Savoy across the river Thames, which is nearly the center between those of Black-Fryers and Westminster, a bridge in this place would be extremely useful for the more easy communication of the two sides of the river; accordingly, upon this supposition, three direct lines have been formed on the Surry side from this bridge, *viz.* one to Black-Fryers-Bridge, another to Newington-Church, and a third to Westminster-Bridge.

Bridge. Quays are also formed from bridge to bridge on both sides the Thames, and by this means the communication of the banks of the river is kept open, so that carriages and foot-passengers may proceed on their business safely without interruption; the breadth from the breast of the quay to the houses is not less than one hundred feet; but if one hundred and twenty feet was allowed it would be better, and this space should be divided by posts and chains, sixty feet should be allowed for carriages and foot-passengers, and the other sixty for landing of goods, &c. The houses should be elegantly built, with large court-yards and ware-houses behind them, they should also be kept in a line, and not suffered to project one before the other, for this reason there are no docks in the plan, but the breast of the quay runs as regularly as the current of the river will permit. The quays, wharfs and streets, ought to be under the inspection of proper persons, who should keep them in repair, and take every possible method to prevent rubbish and filth from being thrown into the river, the shores of which ought, if practicable, to be covered with water. By this means the banks of the river will be rendered of service to the publick, great part of which is now useless and in ruins; certainly no part of London is better adapted by nature for busines, nor is any part of the town more neglected, especially on the Surry side; or, considering the advantage that might be made of it, in a more wretched condition.

84. A semi-circular opening is made at the entrance of the bridge above-mentioned, from which three streets are made, the first in a direct line to the Strand, opposite Exeter-Exchange, which is removed, and a street opened from thence to Charles-Street, this and Bow-Street are widened, and at the top branch into two streets, one of which comes into Long-Acre, opposite Hanover-Street, which is widened from thence to Broad St. Giles's, and the other into Drury-Lane to the end of Great Queen-Street. One of the oblique streets opened from the bridge runs to Catherine-Street, and the other to Southampton-Street. It has been proposed to form the Savoy, which lies in ruins, into squares; but if this scheme of a new bridge was put into execution, the proprietors would not

find their account in so doing, as the laying it into streets would be more advantageous. Indeed, if no bridge is built from the Savoy, then a square or squares of three sides, the fourth to be open next the water, would be extremely proper, and produce a fine effect. In this case, as the situation of the Savoy is low, which would be inconvenient, and rather damp for dwelling-houses, a basement-story might be erected, which should be vaulted, and might be formed into very extensive ware-houses, which being made to project considerably before the dwelling-houses, would form a fine terrace round the square, upon which the buildings for dwelling should be erected; these ware-houses might be accommodated with a piazza, which would be extremely convenient for the several purposes of those who rented them, as their servants might work securely under them in all weathers; this might be elegantly, as well as usefully, adorned with flights of steps, and a balustrade round the whole, and a grand entrance for carriages, made from the Strand through a large arch in the center of the square, and also a convenient and elegant landing place (or places) from the river; the situation being nearly in the center of the two cities, and commanding one of the noblest views upon the river, would be extremely convenient for business, which might be here carried on without interruption to the dwelling-houses, and would not only be very useful, but perhaps the only thing of its kind in Europe. Several other places between the Strand and the Thames, might be advantageously laid out in the same manner, and as variety would add greatly to the beauty of the appearance of such objects from the river, the plans might be alternately changed into segments of circles.

85. The Strand is widened from Southampton-Street to Exeter-Exchange, the measure at the corner of Burleigh-Street being only thirty feet six inches.

86. A new street is formed from Catherine-Street to Drury-Lane, opposite Exeter-Street.

87. A street of the same width with York-Street is made from Bridges-Street into Drury-Lane, and continued through White-Horse Yard to Vere-Street. Little Bridges-Street is carried on in a strait line, and Drury-Lane Theatre is detached in such a manner as to

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render the passages commodious, and prevent confusion in going in or coming out.

88. Russel-Street is continued into Drury-Lane of an equal breadth, Princes-Street and Duke-Street are continued also of the same width to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and Great Wild-Street, Stanhope-Street, and Vere-Street, are likewise widened.

89. The narrow parts of Drury-Lane are widened, especially that next the New-Church, which at present measures only fifteen feet, this and the several improvements before proposed, will become useful to the publick, as they all tend towards rendering the avenues to both the Theatres safe and commodious.

90. A line is formed from Arundel-Street to Temple-Bar, which falls back from the small arch of that gate eight feet, if this design was put in execution, the street would be sufficiently widened for Carriages and foot-passengers, and be thereby rendered extremely commodious; an improvement which every one is sensible is much wanted. As this is the great thorough-fare between the two cities, the houses, which at present lie behind those in the Strand, will be hereby rendered of more value, and the shops in that part of the Strand become of much more consequence than they are at present; the extreme narrowness and inconvenience of the way being an insuperable hindrance to business in that part. This situation, if regulated in the manner proposed, would become perhaps of as much consequence as any in London, and therefore no apology need be made for proposing such an alteration, but can never become so, unless a spirit of improvement among the owners of the ground in that neighbourhood should prevail.

91. Holywell-Street is widened in such a manner as to give convenient room for carriages and foot-passengers to pass and repass, and that and the narrow street by the side of the New-Church are laid on a line, and measure forty feet in breadth; the space at the east-end is also enlarged, so as to admit of carriages going quite round the church.

92. Wych-Street is widened and made to come in a strait line to Temple-Bar, in the same manner as that on the other side of the way, that is eight feet back from the small archway, the houses are

are taken away that incumber St. Clement's-Church, which is described by dotted lines, and if the whole of the houses are not taken away from the church to the Bar, there ought to be so many removed at the east-end as will give room to the church, and it is of very great consequence to the publick, to keep this vast thoroughfare free from incumbrances.

93. Haughton-Street is continued into Drury-Lane.

94. Carey-Street is continued into Vere-Street, and widened at that end next to Chancery-Lane.

95. Portugal-Street is continued in a strait line, till it meets that street which comes from the angle of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, which is widened and carried down into York-Street, Covent-Garden. This will be a very useful communication from that part of Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, and it would have been better for the square if the opening had been made from Duke-Street into the angle, instead of making it at the arch.

96. Searle-Street is widened and continued quite down to the Thames, and the opposite angle is opened into Holborn. This will make one of the most convenient communications in the whole town, nor is there any thing of consequence to prevent its being put in execution, the situation being a very fine one; the undertakers would find themselves extremely well rewarded, as the rents would be vastly improved by making this avenue to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, which has not one good or proper entrance into it: Indeed most of the squares are very deficient in this respect, it would be no inconsiderable advantage to Lincoln's-Inn-Fields, if, instead of the terrace-wall, there was only a dwarf one with iron-rails, in which case the gardens would make an elegant boundary on that side of the square, which would then be the most pleasant, as well as the most spacious square in Europe.

97. Chancery-lane, at the end next Holborn, is widened, and Fullwood's-Rent opposite to it is also widened, and if a dwarf-wall, with iron-rails, was made, instead of the garden-wall in Chancery-Lane, it would have a very good effect, indeed, both this and Gray's-Inn-Gardens might be then viewed from the same station.

98. If the utility of another bridge at the Savoy is allowed, and should ever be put in execution, it is apprehended, that the communications proposed in the plan, at the several bridges, would be found to be very convenient, and at Westminster in particular, where a more awkward disposition can hardly be imagined, as evidently appears by the dotted lines which represent the communications as they stand at this time; why they were originally formed in this manner is hard to say, but certainly had they been disposed in the manner now offered, they would have been more elegant as well as more convenient. It appears from the plan, that a direct line is made from the Bridge to Newington-Church, another to St. George's-Church, and a third to London-Bridge, all which might have been originally made by the Commissioners of Westminster-Bridge, and since the building Black-Fryers Bridge has given an opportunity, another communication is given to that. Whenever an occasion offers, every advantage should be taken, and every approach to a publick structure, like the bridge at Westminster, ought to be made as regular as possible; however, upon an after-thought, the disposition of the area at the foot of Westminster Bridge as described by the dotted lines, which cut off the angular projections, is preferred, as thereby the grand communication from the proposed New-Bridge to Vauxhall is made more regular and convenient. This avenue is designed as a communication for such persons as may not chuse to pass by the wharfs which are described upon the banks of the river.

PLATE THE SECOND.

Contains on a larger scale the improved parts about LEICESTER-FIELDS, COVENT-GARDEN, the MEUSE, &c. in which the measures of the principal streets are figured.

PLATE THE THIRD.

Contains improvements in the CITY of LONDON about the MANSION-HOUSE, ROYAL-EXCHANGE, MOOR-FIELDS, &c.

1. A large area or square is formed in the front of the Mansion-House, which may be composed of houses as elegantly built as the intersection of so many streets will permit, from one angle of which a large commodious street seventy feet wide may be continued to Moorgate, and from thence to the city road. It must be confessed there is very little hope that this or any one of the improvements proposed in or about the city will ever be put in execution, however beneficial or convenient they may appear to be, since a proposal of a similar kind was by the ignorance and selfishness, to call it no worse, of some individuals, entirely defeated, though it was manifestly calculated to do essential service to the city. It has been the fashion ever since the Mansion-House was erected to condemn and abuse it as a miserable performance, but it by no means deserves such treatment; the truth is, that the architect has given the city an elegant design in the stile of that great master Palladio, and it is as true that the miserable circumscribed area upon which he was obliged to build it, is the cause why it makes no better an appearance, and the necessity imposed upon him of putting an Egyptian-Hall in an English house is the reason why those heavy loads of stone appear upon the roof, which co-operating with the hole it stands in, seem to have pressed the whole building into the earth. When this edifice was erected, the opposite houses in Walbrook poured the smoke of their chimneys into the Lord

Mayor's

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Mayor's apartments, and the citizens had not spirit enough, until a long time afterwards, to remove this intolerable nuisance. The truth is, if when they had determined to erect a Mansion-House they had resolved to do it suitably to the importance of so great a city, they should have purchased and taken down all that range of houses between Bucklers-Bury and the Poultry, and built the front of the Mansion-House directly facing Cheapside, and at the same time have raised the ground on which it now stands; this would have given it a fine elevation, and in that case the front might have been brought forward in a line with the steeple of Walbrook-Church, which would have given the building a sufficient depth if it had been wanted; those incumbrances on the top would have been omitted, and the very building which has been so unjustly censured, would have appeared extremely noble and magnificent, as the front by being extended would have given a more elegant proportion to the portico, add to all this that by raising the ground, the water would have been effectually prevented from running into the house, which it has always done whenever a stoppage was produced by a severe frost or sudden shower.

2. Two fine squares are formed in Moorfields, by means of a double row of good houses marked A. which divides the upper from the lower square, taking off from the Artillery Ground as much as would make a single row of houses marked B. to compleat the west side of the upper square. This, besides the addition of regularity, would render it safe and convenient, and if new streets were built as laid down in the plan, instead of the wretched narrow ones now in being, it would certainly raise the value of property, not only to the city, but to a great number of individuals, by improving this part of the town so convenient for its neighbourhood to the Royal-Exchange and the publick offices. A new street is laid down opposite to Chiswell-Street into White-Chapel, which would make a fine useful communication between that and Shoreditch-Road.

3. A convenient street is opened from Moorfields to Throgmorton-Street through Austin-Fryars. A vast number of alleys are destroyed, and a square of handsome houses in their stead are made to

to surround Draper's-Gardens, streets of communication are made from hence into Broad-Street and Coleman-Street, the new street fronting the Mansion-House, two to Throgmorton-Street, and one to Austin-Fryars. If Bethlehem Hospital, which is a most detestable nuisance to the neighbourhood, was removed to some more convenient place out of the town, one of the noblest squares imaginable might be built. The place on which the hospital stands is accordingly formed into a double range of buildings *, one of which fronts Moorfields, and the other a range of houses to be erected in the room of those despicable ones which now front London Wall. By this means a part of the city which is at present not only useless in a great degree but inconvenient and dangerous, is at once made elegant and commodious, and if the proposed alteration of Draper's-Gardens, &c. should ever take place, a grand line of communication will be made from the bank ahd square through the center of Moorfields, intersecting a number of other streets and continued into Old Street-Road at Hoxton. These alterations will be the means of destroying a vast number of courts and alleys, and make the proprietors of those places ample amends by rendering their estates of prodigious value, which at present are worth little or nothing; if the citizens of London were inclined to remove Bethlehem-Hospital, they have undoubtedly the finest opportunity imaginable of making the most noble and magnificent square in the Universe. This might be done by intirely taking down all those mean buildings which are called Brokers-Row, and laying the whole square entirely open upon a line with Old Bethlehem. It is easy to conceive what a noble use might be made of this design, it would at once become an elegant and convenient situation for the wealthier citizens, and at the same time be rendered one of the most entertaining and pleasant places in the kingdom. In the midst of this vast area a basin might be made capable of holding a prodigious quantity of water which would serve as a reservoir in case of fire, which so frequently does immense damage in this metropolis for want of such a supply,

* There is sufficient room here for spacious openings behind the houses, which is of very great consequence, not only in case of fire, but in respect to air and light.

and

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and the earth thrown out of the basin would be made useful in raising the ground.

4. Coleman-Street is continued into Chiswell-Street facing the Artillery-Ground, and the street at London-Wall is made wider, and the new streets on each side Moorfields are made regular and corresponding, as appears by the plan.

5. Lothbury and Throgmorton-Street are widened.

6. Castle-Alley and Swithin's-Alley are widened in such a manner that carriages may pass freely round the Royal-Exchange*, and the former is made to serve as an avenue to the Bank, the trifling shops which surround the columns of the Exchange, and intirely spoil the whole building, should be taken away, and the east and west sides finished to suit with the front. Exchange-Alley is laid out in a regular manner, and made much more convenient than it is at present.

7. The Bank of England is formed into a regular square, with four entrances, by this means the buildings are enlightened and detached so as to prevent any accident which might happen from fire in the neighbourhood. The narrow end of Threadneedle-Street is widened, which is now only fourteen feet nine inches. The front building of the Bank, and all the buildings from thence to Bartholomew-Lane, are taken down, and one grand front is formed, the center of which comes directly opposite the opening proposed in Castle-Alley; but the above design is entirely defeated by the method pursuing at this time opposite the Bank, which by universal consent is allowed to be a piece of deformity. The Bank only wanted one convenient spacious opening into Cornhill, for the purpose of giving room for carriages to pass and repas to and from their publick office, and consequently there was no occasion for that pitiful blind alley which is now made between their buildings and the Exchange; had the opening been made as in the plan, the oblique line the Bank makes with the Exchange would hardly have been perceived, but as the affair is now managed, the Exchange is spoiled, the Bank is spoiled, and Cornhill is spoiled; the truth is, that if the spirit of building, which

* If it was not for spoiling corner houses, it would be most convenient for carriages if the angles were taken off, especially where the streets are very narrow.

seems

seems to have possessed the directors of the Bank, had been rightly directed, they should have done more, they ought to have purchased the whole pile of buildings between them and Cornhill, from the Mansion-House to the Exchange, and have pulled them down and left the whole space open. This would have been a desirable and a noble work, and possibly in time the General Post-Office would have been removed to a more convenient building, which might have been erected opposite to and correspondent with the Bank, in that case the Exchange being finished as before-mentioned, a noble and convenient area might have been formed which would have produced one of the most considerable ornaments of the city. The irregular position of the churches prevents the placing of the Bank at right angles with the Exchange.

8. Pig-Street is widened, and a new one opened at right angles from thence into Threadneedle-Street fronting Merchant Taylor's Hall.

9. The Poultry Compter being a nuisance that ought to be removed to a more suitable place, a street has been made from the square before the Mansion-House, which runs into the Old Jewry; this street was designed in order to make the area of the square more regular, and would make a good useful avenue.

10. The streets about the Mansion-House are widened, in order to procure convenient room on publick days for coaches and other carriages to pass and repass without interruption or danger to foot passengers.

PLATE THE FOURTH.

Contains improvements about LONDON-BRIDGE, the CUSTOM-HOUSE, TOWER, &c.

The alterations in this plate appear at the first view to be so very considerable, that an apology for not giving a minute explanation of every particular is needless, as it would be both tedious and troublesome, it has been thought sufficient therefore to mention only some of the most remarkable parts, and to say in general that this part of the city is laid out in so inconvenient a manner that there was an absolute necessity to new model the whole, or leave it in the state it now stands. This as it is a part so

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extremely well situated and so immediately connected with the mercantile part of the nation could not possibly be omitted, and therefore care has been taken to make every possible improvement, and to give such hints as might shew that no attention to this spot has been spared which might render it commodious, elegant and useful. The present Custom-House-Quay measures only forty-four feet three inches, and the street behind it twenty-nine feet, which is figured in the plan; it is astonishing how so much business can possibly be carried on in a place which is so extremely crowded, and consequently perpetually confused. Those only can form an idea of it whose business or curiosity prompt them to become spectators of this scene of hurry and confusion. There is no doubt but that the transactions of the greatest trading port in the world are here carried on notwithstanding these inconveniences; but certainly those who have anything to do at the Custom-House Quay must find it extremely troublesome as well as dangerous, and surely if more space was allowed much time might be saved by the facility with which the usual kinds of business would be transacted there. In order therefore to give ample room, the breast-work of the quay is designed by the segment of a circle from Fishmongers-Hall to the Tower, and the whole range of buildings is thrown back to the upper sides of Thames-Street, parallel to the line of the quay *; the whole is formed in a regular design, an elegant new front is proposed for Fishmongers-Hall at one end of the quay, and a new entrance to the Tower at the other, the church of St. Magnus is removed to the angle marked C †, and another church is proposed similar to that at D, the

whole

* An objection may possibly be made to the proposal of keeping the quays open, which is the necessity of having ware-houses built close upon the breast of the wharfs, without any intermediate space between them and the river, but though this disposition might suit some few individuals extremely well, yet it would be very inconvenient to the publick in general, besides destroying the grandeur and effect of the whole; the banks of the river on each side, as specified in the plans, ought to be the property of the publick, to prevent impediments in business, and the wharfs should be maintained and kept in order by the merchants, who should pay a certain annual sum for that purpose.

† Whilst London-Bridge was repairing, the church received considerable damage by fire. This circumstance made most of the inhabitants of the parish (who were reduced by the removal of the houses upon it to a very inconsiderable number) desirous of having the church taken down, and to unite themselves to another parish, as the expence

pence

whole building of the Custom-House is detached, the street and end fronts of the building are designed with arcades, and also a grand range of arcades on each side the Custom-House next the river is made in order to shelter those whose business obliges them to attend that place in bad weather: these arcades are proposed to be raised a step or two, and to have seats and iron rails between the piers to keep them from being encumbered with goods. The openings about the two churches are intended only as foot-paths to communicate with the arcades, a sufficient number of spacious streets are designed from the quay to accommodate the business transacted there, and the buildings between them and over the arcades are intended for a noble range of ware-houses, the utility of which need not be pointed out. Upon the breast of the Custom-House-Quay, in the front of the building, a large sweep or swell is formed into the river, and is designed for a landing place; but if this should be thought too great an encroachment upon the river, or liable to cause any obstruction, an internal segment might be formed within the quay in its stead, but this would rather interrupt the business, and in point of elegance would be far inferior to the design given in the plan. It is likewise proposed in the plan to fill up Billingsgate-Dock, and the whole market is flung into the quay, which in its present state it would entirely interrupt. A design however is not given for a fish-market, but one might be very easily supplied in that part of the quay next London-Bridge, there being room enough for a much more commodious market than the present.

2. Tower-Hill is attempted to be laid out with some kind of regularity, by opening the whole into one great space, a part of the ground for the sake of variety is inclosed with iron rails, and is supposed to be covered with verdure, which would make it at once pleasant and useful to the inhabitants, as the buildings which divide the great from little Tower-Hill are but of small value they have been taken away. The Navy-Office is placed opposite to the Victualling-Office, which it is apprehended is in a more con-

pence of repairing it amounted to a considerable sum; but this useful scheme was entirely defeated by the ignorance of some and wilfulness of others who opposed it, and the church was consequently suffered to remain an incumbrance, and to occupy a space which might be employed to the greatest advantage to the publick in general.

venient situation than the present. The Victualling-Office is made extremely spacious and commodious; the buildings shaded in the center of Tower-Hill, might be applied for the use of some publick office or hall, and would have a good effect; the line of houses on each side of the Tower are kept at equal distances, the Tower-Wharf is widened, and consequently some alterations made in that place, as appears by the plan. It is great pity that the Tower itself is not kept in better repair, there are several parts of it which might be improved and made decent at least, the outer wall in particular wants a thorough repair, and some offensive objects should be removed. Many trifling buildings erected by the inhabitants ought to be taken away, and although the Tower is a place incapable of being defended, yet the appearance at least of a place of defence should be preserved as much as possible. In short for want of a proper attention to decorum this great arsenal is suffered to appear in a manner very ill becoming the character and dignity of this great capital, when a very trifling expence would render it an object worthy of notice and make it as ornamental as it is useful. It is not doubted that most people will be struck with the expence attending this and many other improvements proposed in this work, but however impertinent or foreign to the present design it may appear, it may not be improper to remind them, that it becomes the indispensible duty of every nation, as well as of every private man, to take care of the repairs of their own houses before they think of refitting those of their neighbours, the expence of these improvements may be murmured against as unnecessary, by some who would make no scruple of giving their assent to the expending of millions for the support of the colonies and settlements in North America, a thing perhaps more destructive in its consequences to this nation than they may be aware of; the example of the kingdom of Spain is a glaring proof of the absurdity of such a conduct, the Spaniards, as well as the English, have been colony mad, Spain has been undone by this infatuation, and it is to be feared from the present temper of our own colonies, that we are not likely to be in a much better situation. If we have too many poor people among us, employ them at home in works of supererogation, if any one pleases to call them so, rather than send them to the colonies, where they no sooner arrive than they set up for themselves,

themselves, and like the snake in the fable, wound the very hand that has revived, nourished and supported them. The French have been compelled to do, what in policy they ought to have done without compulsion, that is, they have given up their interest in a part of the world which would one day have proved the ruin of that nation in Europe: The number of inhabitants in London, at this time may persuade some people to imagine that the kingdom is increased in numbers, but this is a miserable mistake, the towns and villages in England decrease instead of increasing their inhabitants, London and the British colonies swallow them all up, nor has there been one new city, town or village formed in the kingdom in the present century, Birmingham, Manchester and Sheffield indeed have increased prodigiously, but they, like the Americans, have only drained other places for supplies, with this difference however that those people do not quit their native country, whereas those sent to the colonies very rarely return again.

3. In that part of the Borough of Southwark which is laid down in this plate, the wharfs are made of the same dimensions with those on the London side, the bridge is made to open in a spacious circular form, and as the houses that compose the avenues are supposed to be regularly built, the whole would produce a fine effect, and be at once useful and elegant. The streets are widened, and new ones are described, which would make this part of the town extremely convenient, and certainly is infinitely preferable to its present confused disposition which, like too many other places in this metropolis, is utterly destitute of form and convenience, though extremely well situated for business, and so circumstanced as to be very easily improved.

4. The breast-work of all the wharfs on this side of the river ought to be raised so as to prevent the highest tides from overflowing them. The expence of doing this would not be very great, as the materials for raising the earth are on the spot, the ground which might be taken out of the river would not only serve to raise the wharfs but would also improve it by deepening the water near its edges, which in places of this kind is much wanted. Before this explanation of the plates is concluded it becomes necessary to apologize for such particular parts of the first plate as seem to contradict

contradict the authors sentiments in regard to extending the buildings of this city as it appears upon inspecting the plate, that notwithstanding what has been urged against the increase of buildings in this metropolis, a great number of new streets are proposed and laid down between the new buildings and the great boundary line or new road. Of these therefore it is necessary to say that they are only to be considered as examples or directions in case no restraint is to be laid upon builders, and that hereafter if any man takes upon him to build in an awkward, inelegant manner, he may not even have the common excuse to urge, that he really knew no better. Another consideration is, that in case any of the interior alterations should be put in execution, and by that means houses should be pulled down to make room for new avenues, it would occasion the persons who are obliged to quit their habitations to seek for other places of abode, and accordingly streets have been planned which may be applied for these purposes; in this case buildings will not be multiplied but extended, and as air and convenience is thereby given to the interior parts, no one would be against building within a limited space for the accommodation of such persons as were obliged to quit their former situations.

The author flatters himself it will be allowed, that in this undertaking he has spared no pains to improve what he thought wanted improvement, and he is very ready to acknowledge on his part, that probably his zeal in the execution of his design may have led him into some errors and absurdities, of which for want of information in regard to particular circumstances, he could not possibly have any idea; but where reasonable objections can be made he is ready to give up such parts of his design, and only lament the existence of impediments of any kind. However he hopes that if much must unavoidably be rejected, that much also may be put in execution, and that if some parts of his work are liable to censure, from whatever cause, that others will be found not to deserve it, and consequently that upon the whole his attempt will meet with the approbation of the publick, for whose use and advantage it was undertaken,

Some OBSERVATIONS upon, and PROPOSALS relating to,
PLACES which are not laid down in the PLANS.

It may not be improper or disagreeable to the reader, to consider the several Royal Palaces of Windsor and Hampton-Court, Richmond-Gardens and Richmond-Park, and their situations ; Windsor-Castle is perhaps, in point of situation and effect, one of the noblest objects in the universe, though the parts of which it is composed are far from being elegant ; however, many considerable improvements might be made, which would be of great advantage and make it a much more pleasing object than it is at present ; for instance, all the houses between the Castle and the Thames might be taken away quite to the bridge, and a grand flight of steps made to lead up to the center of the building on the north-side next the river. This would have a noble effect from the opposite shore, and if a fine stone-bridge was erected directly opposite to these steps, instead of the present mean wooden one, it would give a truly magnificent appearance to the whole. The castle itself is very irregular, and this irregularity is heightened by the great number of mean hovels and brick-walls with which the courts are crowded, and which by no means answer the character of a Royal Palace. All the offensive smoaky houses, which join to the castle, should likewise be removed, as well as many others which might be taken away, in order to make a spacious and regular approach to the castle from the town *. Indeed it is a great pity the terrace had not been continued round that part of the castle next to the buildings, which would have effectually detached them from it, and made all that part much more convenient and pleasant. The whole building should be sashed, which would give clearfulness to the apartments, and have a better effect in the exterior view of the castle. The grand court ought to be laid with gravel, instead of being paved, which, if it was well kept, would prevent the disagreeable melancholly effect

* If the town was regularly laid out and well built, so as to correspond with the whole, it would be a very considerable advantage to its inhabitants : from the great resort of visitors, not only to view the castle, but for the sake of the country round it.

occasioned

occasioned by the grass growing in the interstices of the pavement. The Chapel, which contains the tomb of the celebrated Cardinal Wolsey, is employed at present as a mason's workshop. It is much to be lamented that this building, which is an elegant piece of Gothick architecture, is not thoroughly repaired, in the doing which, however, particular care should be taken to preserve the original design, and no innovations should be suffered to be made. That elegant Gothick pile of St. George's-Chapel is most miserably encumbered on the north-side with despicable buildings, which entirely destroy the effect of the whole fabrick, these should be immediately removed; the finishing of that whole chapel is exquisite, and undoubtedly this part of the building has an equal title to be seen with its opposite side. The west-end of the chapel is particularly fine, and yet is so surrounded and choaked up with buildings, that few people, who go to view the castle, know any thing of this part of the chapel, though it unfortunately happens to be the principal entrance; if (as there seems to have been provision made for some such design), an elegant Gothick dome, suitable to the whole, was raised in the center of this building, it would greatly add to the dignity of the chapel, and take off from the length of the line which the roof makes at present; such an elevation would greatly enrich the appearance of that part of the castle, and produce a fine effect in the distant view of the whole. The inside of this chapel is extremely fine, and the greatest attention should be given, in order that it may not be deformed: The common absurd practice of placing trophies against the columns, and of erecting monuments up and down this elegant pile, is an execrable custom, unless it was done with more propriety; indeed this is an abuse too frequently intruded into all places of publick worship, and must be entirely owing to the want of taste in those who have the management of church-affairs, and permit such things to be carried into execution. If the design of a church is good for any thing, it is sure to be ruined by this practice, which never fails of destroying its regularity; whenever a monument is proposed to be erected, the utmost care should be taken that the design should suit the place, and by that means serve as an ornament to the whole. There is but one instance where any attention seems

to

to have been paid to this kind of decorum, and this is to be seen in the two monuments erected to the memory of Sir Isaac Newton and General Stanhope in Westminster-Abbey, these are happily placed, and make a fine finish upon the screen in that Cathedral, which would otherwise have made a miserable appearance. The custom of erecting monuments in churches at all is an absurdity, but the practice of deforming churches merely because people can afford to pay a large tax upon vanity, is intolerable, and if the real worth of some, who figure it in holy places, was strictly enquired into, many a heap of beautiful marble, and exquisite art, would be unanimously thrust out of them as publick nuisances.

Publick memorials of truly great and deserving persons ought undoubtedly to be erected, and as the love of fame is an universal passion, every incitement for promoting it should be encouraged and attended to. With this view therefore, publick mausoleums should be erected to honour publick virtue and learning; in these the great and good should alone find places, and as a subordination ought to be observed in these kind of edifices, it might not be improper to erect one for the sole use of such as had no other pretence for perpetuating their memories, than that they existed a certain number of years, and died worth a certain sum of money. This last proposition is the more to be attended to, as the exclusion of this kind of people would be of infinite prejudice to a great number of ingenious artists, who, without such assistance, would have little or nothing to do, and it certainly would be no very great burden to the publick, if they were to be at the sole expence of erecting such testimonies of regard for the memories of those who really merited places in the principal mausoleums. It may be said, that the mausoleum of wealth and vanity must either greatly exceed the others in magnitude, or else be better filled; the truth of this observation would certainly be verified; but let it be considered, that what was denied in numbers, would be amply recompenced in value, and that the contemplation of the tomb of one truly great or valuable man would yield abundantly more solid satisfaction, than the pomp and glare of a vast number of monuments erected to the memories of a multitude of insignificant people.

Windsor-Castle is a building, or rather a composition of buildings, of vast magnitude, and the idea it gives at a distance, is more that of a romantic than an elegant pile, nor does it lose this character upon a nearer approach, the towers give it an air of grandeur, but there is not the least degree of elegance to be found in their construction, or indeed in that of any other part of the castle itself; however, the vast quantity of building, and its prodigiously advantageous situation, serve to render it altogether one of the most striking objects in this or perhaps any other part of the world.

The lodge in Windsor Great-Park, as a building, is as much beneath the dignity of the park it stands in, as that is superior in to St. James's-Park, the situation is extremely ill-chosen, and the building worse contrived. It is amazing when so many spots, infinitely superior to it, presented themselves, that any one should make so bad a choice, but it has been built a great number of years, and it cannot be doubted, if ever a new lodge is erected in that park, that a better situation will be chosen. A vast sum of money has been expended already in improving the park, but much remains to be done; the place itself might be made extremely fine, nature has done a great deal, and has pointed out sufficiently what may be improved and beautified by art; upon the whole, this place does not at present come up in any degree to the character usually given it.

Hampton-Court-Palace is in point of situation the very reverse of Windsor-Castle, the last is upon a noble eminence, and the former upon a dead flat; in this respect its situation is extremely bad, it commands no prospect, and therefore is rather a gloomy melancholy place; it is composed of Roman and Gothick architecture, and the principal fronts are the grandest and most regular of all the Royal Palaces; the two outer courts are Gothick, and are magnificent things in their kind, with this farther advantage, that they are all clean and unincumbered with trifling buildings. This Palace is a striking instance of the disadvantage of low situations, let the building be composed in the grandest style imaginable, it will always suffer for want of a proper ascent, and Hampton-Court-Palace, or any other building situate upon a flat, will always appear when

when viewed at a distance, as if it was partly sunk into the earth. Undoubtedly, low situations ought carefully to be avoided, wherever elevated ones can be procured, and many very elegant houses have been utterly ruined, especially when built too near the borders of a river, in doing which such errors have been committed as cannot escape even the notice and ridicule of the vulgar. An instance of this kind occurred some time ago to a gentleman who came by water from Richmond to London, and, in his way, could not help taking particular notice of a very elegant house upon the banks of the Thames; the fellow who rowed him, said, ‘Ay, Sir, it’s a very fine house, an’t it? but I knew, when they laid the foundation, that every time the floods were out, the water would come into the house; and pray, says the gentleman, as you were not ignorant of this, why did not you acquaint the builder in time, and thereby prevent such a misfortune? ah! Master, replied the fellow, shaking his head, I knew well enough as how the builder was an ignorant man, and so would have his own way, because why, such people always thinks nobody knows nothing but themselves.’

Richmond New-Park is perhaps one of the finest spots of its kind in Europe, the beautiful variety of landscapes it every where exhibits, the order in which it is kept, the bold simplicity and inequality of the ground, which is finely diversified into hills and vallies, richly decorated with elegant trees, and above all, the noble and extensive prospect which the highest parts of it command, are beautiful beyond imagination. Upon the summit of the hill next the town of Richmond, and near the park-gate, there is a spot, which, of all others perhaps in this kingdom, is the most desirable place to erect a Royal Palace upon, the richness and extensiveness of the views on every side are amazingly fine, but two of them exceed the others, and perhaps all others; the one takes in the cities of London and Westminster, with the adjacent hills of Harrow, Hampstead and Highgate, and the opposite side fronts the beautiful winding of the Thames from Richmond to Twickenham, and commands all that glorious landscape so universally admired by persons of the greatest taste and understanding. There is but one obstacle in the way, which, no doubt, would be very easily removed, and that is, if a design of

this nature was to be put in execution, it would become necessary to take in all that part which lies between the park-wall and the village of Petersham; supposing this to be done, a grand approach might be formed from the river to the front of the Palace in the midst of a most beautiful lawn; the opening of this from the Thames and the meadows would have a prodigious fine effect, and as the sides of the hill are covered in the most picturesque manner imaginable, the finish of a palace built with stone *, upon the summit of the hill, would produce one of the finest scenes that can possibly be conceived; add to this, that a magnificent bridge might be thrown across the river, directly fronting the Palace, which would be a useful ornament, and render the whole view still more picturesque, and the eye would command from the Thames, the intire elevation without interruption.

Richmond Gardens have been generally allowed to be extremely fine, and they, in a great measure, deserve the character given them; the terrace is perhaps as grand and as fine an object of its kind as any in Europe; but this is without doubt the finest part of the whole garden, take this away and you destroy all the rest, there is questionless room for great improvements in these gardens, but without an enormous expence, the ground, cannot be raised which every part of the garden itself points out as wanting. The greatest proof of this want of variety, (owing to the flatness of the situation,) is, that not a place in it can be found on which one would wish to see a superb edifice † erected, because every one would be sensible, that, if it was done, it could command no other view than that of Sion-House, and the wretched one of Brentford, which every man of taste would sincerely wish could never be seen at all, for of all deplorable country towns this is the worst, and is still the more despicable, as it might be made one of the most agreeable places upon the banks of the Thames. It is amazing to think what encomiums have been

* It is surprising that stucco-fronts are not more frequently introduced, especially in the country, as it is not very expensive, agrees well with stone, and, being covered with blue slate, harmonizes in the most agreeable manner with trees and all degrees of verdure.

† It is said that the situation of the present Palace, which was built by the Duke of Ormond, is so extremely damp in winter, that the wainscots are commonly covered with water.

passed upon Richmond Gardens, and what multitudes have flocked to see them, when, at the same time, the most beautiful spot in the kingdom the New-Park, has been totally neglected, and not one person in a thousand, of those who go to Richmond, is acquainted with the least part of it, they are commonly contented with a walk upon the terrace, a view of the Hermitage, &c. and then proceed to the hill, where indeed there is a most noble entertainment for the eye, but this is the sum of their stock of curiosity, and the most beautiful and romantic part of the whole is never thought of, and consequently totally neglected.

The Princess Dowager's house would certainly appear to a prodigious advantage, if the opposite buildings were entirely removed, and the whole opened to the Thames with a fine lawn, in which case the stabling in front should be removed, and the whole finished in character; Kew-Bridge would appear in a picturesque manner, but much more so, if the anatomy of the bridge was concealed, it is certainly very absurd, as well as prejudicial to the timbers, to expose these kind of skeletons, which ought to be covered as far as the bottom of the railing. A fine entrance might also be made from Kew-Green to Richmond Gardens, by taking down the old buildings, which would open the view to Sion and Isleworth from the Princess's house in a most advantageous manner.

It is a great pity that the late Lord Burlington's house at Chiswick had not been laid open to the Thames, indeed when the lowness of its situation is considered, it would be impossible to view it in the advantageous manner it could be wished, and as the beauty of that building deserves. With due submission to the taste and respect to the memory of that nobleman, it is not a little surprising how he could be induced, by the trifling consideration of preserving a tasteless old building, to sacrifice so very elegant a design by connecting them together. Had his lordship raised the ground considerably on which the foundation was to be laid, what a fine effect would have been produced, the house which is now almost entirely hid, might have been seen to great advantage from every quarter, and the whole country round, which is a tasteless flat, would have made a very different appearance by the elegant break which this fine object would have given it. Upon the whole, this
celebrated

celebrated house is a convincing proof of the disadvantage of building upon low situations, as by this means neither the house, nor the place on which it stands, are advantageous to each other, the building is not seen, nor the country improved, in point of appearance, from its being erected at all. Indeed it is very absurd to build any house of consequence in a low obscure situation, or to encumber or hide any such buildings with brick-walls, hovels and trifling offices, which is too frequently practised, for space always gives an air of grandeur.

Chelsea-College is a simple, noble and elegant building, and very properly adapted to its use, it wants nothing but an elevation of about eight or ten feet, which would keep it free from damps, and consequently make it more healthy and comfortable for the people who inhabit there; it is rather incumbered with houses, and if the high brick-walls that surround it were taken away, and dwarf-walls with iron-rails substituted in their room, the whole would have a better effect.

The whole village of Chelsea might be greatly improved by regulating the banks of the Thames, and removing the buildings which stand immediately upon them; the church, which is very old, should be rebuilt, and removed something farther back from the river; the houses built in country places should always be detached, for the benefit of air, light, and prospect, and not built in rows according to the present taste, nor should they be suffered to project one before the other; if this method was observed, every house would be situated in a garden, and the whole would be cheerful and pleasant; but, above all things, the houses should be raised upon a basement, which will always keep them sufficiently dry, and make the lower apartments light and airy.

Greenwich-Hospital is undoubtedly the grandest building in England, the two pavilions next the water were designed by Inigo Jones ‡, and the rest of the buildings with the fine colonades were the work of Sir Christopher Wren; this grand edifice, of which not the least part should be hid, is encumbered with brick

‡ The original drawing by Inigo Jones of one of these pavilions without the attick, was in the possession of Stephen Wren, Esq; who shewed it the author. This attick, which was added by Sir Christopher Wren, rather deforms the building, but being a work of necessity could not be dispensed with.

walls and a great number of miserable houses, all which should be immediately destroyed and not be permitted to deform and disgrace a work so truly magnificent. If any other fault can be found with Greenwich-Hospital it is that it wants a proper center, which has been often observed, and likewise that its situation is rather too near the river, and the ground it stands on too low; an inconvenience which hinders it from being seen to advantage any where but upon the Thames †.

The space occupied by the peers and sterlings of London-Bridge is considerably greater than that allowed for the passage of the water, consequently more than half the breadth of the river is in this place entirely stopped, whereas the obstruction occasioned by the piers at Westminster-Bridge is not near one third of the water-way, and it is needless to mention the effects of this obstruction, since the most melancholy instances are too frequently experienced to need a repetition. The truth is, this wretched bridge ought to have been entirely demolished ages ago, and a greater mistake never was committed than that of making the late repairs and endeavouring to improve so intolerable a nuisance, the execution of which has manifestly proved its absurdity, since the main design of those improvements (which was to lessen the fall at the ebbing of the tide) has by experience been entirely defeated, and shews that the best repair that could possibly have been made was to have taken it entirely down. Indeed at the time when it was become necessary to add the sterlings in order to preserve the foundation of the piers and prevent the superstructure from falling, at that very

† It certainly was a very strange absurdity to bestow such extraordinary expences on a building designed for charitable purposes, and ridiculous to see a parcel of maimed, decrepid old paupers, its inhabitants, parading up and down the grand colonades. Chelsea-College answers every intention of its endowment there is an elegant simplicity in the whole, without a profusion of expence in the decoration; but that heighth of magnificence in Greenwich, one would almost imagine had been intended merely to put real elegance out of countenance; and the reason given for building Grosvenor-Square in that irregular and confused manner we now see it, was, that if regularity had been more considered, it would too much have resembled an Hospital: A ridiculous argument, surely, for spoiling the uniformity of so noble a quadrangle.

time

time the whole bridge should have been demolished, and rebuilt in an elegant and commodious manner, and the money which at that time was expended in piling and securing it, and the annual sums which it has since cost in repairs, exclusive of the last enormous one, would have been more than sufficient to have defrayed the expence, and had the least attention been given at that time to this consideration, it must have been a sufficient motive for rebuilding the bridge *. It has been often ignorantly asserted, that the arches of this bridge were originally constructed in the manner they are, in order to restrain the ebbing of the tide, to preserve the navigation of the river above the bridge ; others have with like ignorance and confidence said, that if the arches of the bridge were widened, the tide would ebb away so fast that there would be scarce any navigation above the bridge a little after high-water ; that is, it would be low-water much sooner than it is at present, and thereby the navigation would be hindered. This last assertion is so very absurd that it is scarcely worth mentioning, for had these objectors once considered that the river is navigable so very far above the reach of the tide, they would never have thought of advancing so wretched an argument. In fact, a new bridge, as has been before observed, was absolutely necessary in this place, and should have been built instead of repairing the old one, this would, besides the preservation of many lives have reflected honour upon the city of London, have very considerably improved the navigation of the river, and been a most noble and useful ornament ; instead of which an immense sum of money has been thrown away, the bridge itself is left a greater nuisance than it was before (owing to the prodigious rapidity of the stream under the great arch) with this additional aggravation, that it will very probably, be continually calling in the aid of quackery, remain a perpetual expence for a considerable time, and a standing reproach to the present age, which by no means deserves such treatment.

* The present alteration of London-Bridge cost near 100,000 l. 75,000 l. part advanced by parliament at five times, and 7,500 l. part of 24,000 l. remainder allowed to have been expended in that alteration, besides the materials of the houses, many of which were new.

The parish of St. Magnus consisted of about one hundred and five houses, eighty of which are destroyed for opening the avenues and clearing the bridge.

It appears upon the further consideration of this great nuisance; that (as if the miserable contrivance of the bridge itself was not impediment enough to the navigation) it is most terribly encumbered with the engine for raising water, which occupies no less than four arches, the effect these works have upon the navigation therefore is very considerable, besides the shocking appearance they make as an object. It is proposed therefore to take this whole machine entirely away. Such a proposal will undoubtedly be thought extravagant by some people, and the profit accruing to the proprietors of the water-works will be objected as an obstacle, but as it is apprehended that the chief part of the revenue arising to the London-Bridge water-works is produced from the Borough of Southwark, it is proposed to bring the river Wan from Mitcham in Surry to the Borough, which, as it is but a small distance from London, may be easily done, and at no very great expence; Bromley river might also be made to supply Deptford and Rotherhithe, and the New-River Company might supply all that part of the city of London which is now served by the London-Bridge water-works. It may be likewise objected, that the New River will be insufficient to supply the whole metropolis, in answer to this it may be said, that the New River is certainly capable of supplying the whole quantity wanted; but as it may not be so conveniently done, there is another great resource for the supply of this very useful element. There is reason to hope the river Coln will be made navigable from Uxbridge, and brought to Mary-le-Bone; which will more than serve all the new buildings and parts adjacent, as well as the city of Westminster. It has been objected to this last very useful scheme (and some objection will eternally be made to every design for the publick good) that the navigation of the river Thames will be prejudiced by the want of the water which this scheme will direct from its usual course; but this has been before fully refuted by the observation that the river is navigable for the west country barges many miles higher up than at the place where the Coln falls into it, and therefore its waters are of little consequence to the navigation of the river Thames. There is one consideration above all the rest that ought

L O N D O N A N D

to be attended to, which is, that whilst the supplying of water is chiefly in one company's hands it becomes a kind of monopoly, and has this danger attending it, that the proprietors of the works have it in their power at any time to lay whatever tax they please on the inhabitants.

But the greatest clamour will arise from the enormous expence which it will be said must necessarily attend the execution of the schemes for bringing these two rivers to London, to this it may be answered, that the noblest and most useful undertaking of this kind that ever was executed is now carrying on by one Nobleman at his own expence; the Duke of Bridgwater's navigable canal in Lancashire, is a work that not only does him honour, but would do honour to this or any other kingdom in the universe.

As there is the greatest probability that St. George's-Fields will one time be laid out in streets, it becomes necessary to give some timely hints with regard to the disposition of this place. The extreme lowness of the situation of the ground naturally makes it damp, and consequently unhealthy; in order to remedy this great inconvenience it will be necessary to make the streets not less than sixty feet wide; nor should any alleys be suffered, the ground should be raised as much as possible, and it is to be lamented, that after the fire of London they had not made a laystall in St. George's Fields instead of that at White-Chapel and other places. Large drains should be cut to carry off the water, and those arched over and made into common-shores; this would in a great measure keep the foundations dry. But above all, as free air is conducive to health in all places, so more especially in this case it would be necessary, and therefore a vast area should be formed which should not be less than two thousand feet square; in the midst a large basin should be sunk, which would be extremely useful on every account, serving at once as a drain and a reservoir of water in case of fire; this area might be laid out in such a manner as to be made a place of publick resort for people in that quarter of the town, and would be healthful, pleasant and useful.

It has been before observed in the course of this work, that too little attention has hitherto been given to the obtaining of space and

and giving freedom to the air; a more striking instance of the bad effects of this neglect cannot be given, than in that of St. Paul's Church, the members and ornaments of which in many places are entirely choaked up with soot, which misfortune is owing to its being pent up with buildings. Wherever sea-coal is burnt the streets ought to be made spacious, more especially in low situations, for the damps naturally prevent the smoke from rising, and consequently if the streets are narrow the wind has not power to disperse it properly.

If Hatton-Garden was continued through Cold Bath-Fields towards the New-Road, it would be a prodigious improvement to that street, as well as to the adjacent parts; if this alteration was to take place, it would be necessary to raise the ground in the hollow parts to a level, which might be easily done, as the space required for this purpose would hardly exceed two hundred feet.

It is reasonable to suppose that when Black-Fryars Bridge is finished, the Fleet-Market will be removed to a more convenient situation. In this case it is to be wished, that a street equal in width to that in which the market now stands should be opened and continued from Holborn-Bridge in a direct line to Clerkenwell, or further, and then to divide into two openings, one to Islington and the other to the Hampstead-Road. It will immediately occur to every one who has the least knowledge of the places through which this street is proposed to be conducted, that private property will be amazingly improved by this means, nor will the publick be less benefitted, as a noble, free and useful communication will be opened between the counties of Surry and Middlesex. At the same time another useful opening might be made from Old-Street in a direct line to Gray's-Inn-Lane, which would also improve a part of the town which is at present in a deplorable condition. If the former part of this proposal should ever be put in execution and the market in Smithfield be suffered to remain, it will be extremely useful, on account of the opportunity it will give passengers to avoid that inconvenient dangerous place, as no one need pass through it whose business does not demand their attendance there. But although very few houses of consequence will be affected by

this alteration, it is much to be doubted whether it will ever be attended to, as the citizens generally seem to be averse to every kind of improvement of which they cannot see the future advantage.

Westminster Abbey, as it is a very fine Gothick structure of great beauty and antiquity, certainly demands a strict attention. That venerable pile, which has seen so many Monarchs crowned within its walls amidst the acclamations of shouting multitudes, and afterwards born its silent and awful testimony of the sad funeral rites of those very Princes, ought undoubtedly to be kept and supported in a proper manner, nor should the least impropriety or want of decorum be suffered in a pile so venerable and majestic. It may be thought severe to say, that it is deformed by monuments, but however severe such an assertion may be thought, it is nevertheless true. The beauty of the whole pile is destroyed by these intrusions, and however sublime and beautiful some of these works may be in themselves, hardly one of them has been introduced with propriety, or its form and situation considered with regard to the whole structure. Some are less faulty in this particular than others, but numbers of them ought to be entirely taken away, as tending to nothing more than loading and deforming the church in the most wretched manner; but there is an absurdity in this abbey which is yet more unpardonable, more tasteless, more absurd, and a greater piece of deformity than either or all the monuments in the church together, this is no other than that disjointed, unconnected attempt at magnificence, the marble altar; there never was any thing more absurd than the thought of decorating a Gothick building with Greek or Roman architecture, manners so essentially different that it is utterly impossible there should ever be the least harmony subsisting between them. The truth is, the present altar ought by all means to be taken down and the whole thrown open to the east end of the abbey, which is in itself very fine and perfectly adapted to the purpose; this part should be decorated in the Gothick taste, suitable to the rest of the building, and would have a much more noble effect than that miserable thing which at present blocks up and deforms the church.

A proposal for the removal of the shrine of Edward the Confessor, may by some people be looked upon as a sacrilegious attempt, but it is plain, from the wretched appearance it now makes, that even the religious themselves have not scrupled in part to put this scheme in execution, by depriving it from time to time of every decoration which could serve to render it an object worthy of notice, and instead of permitting it to stand in its pristine form, the memorial of a saint and martyr, it serves for very little more than to shew that ever since the time it was erected, there have not been wanting people who were either foolishly superstitious or wickedly wanton. It would be therefore doing no great harm if this mutilated lump of antiquity was displaced on account of so elegant an improvement, and it would not be very difficult to find a more suitable place for it, if it was judged necessary or profitable, to preserve this precious relick; this and the tomb of Henry the Fifth therefore should be removed. The floor of the chapel of Edward the Confessor is raised considerably above the pavement of the church, which gives a fine opportunity for making a flight of steps, and what a noble effect that would have, not only upon the altar but the whole church may be very easily conceived. At the same time the church would be vastly improved if those mean stalls in the choir were taken down, and others more suitable to the dignity of the place erected in their stead; the choir might also be widened by throwing the stalls back upon a line with the middle of the columns; this would give it a proportionable width to the length which would be gained by the removal of the altar. The whole pavement of the church is in a miserable state, and should be relayed, and whenever any repairs are made in the building every particular whatever should be restored as near as possible to its original form, and it is great pity that the whole cathedral is not put into a more respectable condition. There seems to be something very extraordinary relating to the doors of this cathedral, the original design of which certainly made ample provision for the convenience of going into and coming out of it, but by some unaccountable whim or accident it is not without difficulty that people can now get either in or out, particularly at the north door, where to

all

all appearance one would not expect an impediment of that sort should occur, but so it is; whereas if both those side doors (or only the middle one) were thrown open, these obstructions would cease, but unfortunately one of the side entrances is choaked up by an uncouth monument, and therefore rendered useless on account of a thing which is itself an incumbrance, as indeed are all those on the north-east angle of the cathedral, as well as those on the south-west, which jointly concur to spoil and ruin the uniformity of the whole building.

From what has been already said it appears, that to render this ancient structure truly elegant, it is necessary to repair the pavement thoroughly, to remove the altar, to widen and enrich the choir by suitable Gothick stalls decorated in character with the rest of the church, to enlarge the entrances, and to demolish or remove a great number of wretched monuments, add to all this, that if every window was ornamented with painted glass, an elegant light Gothick dome raised from the nave of the church, and the whole inside of the building painted of an uniform clean stone colour, in the manner that St. Paul's church is, it would then become a most beautiful pile, and be deservedly esteemed one of the finest things of the kind perhaps in Europe.

The whole of Henry the Seventh's chapel, both external and internal, is so extremely fine and so exquisite a model of Gothick architecture, that it is sincerely to be wished no modern hand might ever be suffered to touch it, but as the teeth of time have already destroyed many parts of its exterior ornaments it ought to be repaired before it is too late, but with a most scrupulous adherence to its original form, not an ornament or single member should suffer the least alteration, and if it was possible to build a case for the whole to prevent all further injuries, it would be doing no more than this amazing piece of art richly merits. As to the interior design of this building, let the admirers of Grecian and Roman architecture impartially and critically examine the roof, measure and re-measure the parts, let them draw them over and over, and when they have considered, and re-considered the whole as often,

often, and found as many faults as they please, let them produce; either from themselves, or from the most celebrated antique examples, a roof of the same dimensions, equally light, rich, elegant and magnificent, or equally pleasing and harmonious. Whatever merit the Gothick designers had, or however exquisitely their thoughts were executed, it must be confessed, and ought to be lamented, that the Goths their successors have treated them in all respects most unworthily; whether it is owing to the prodigious refinement of taste, or whether envy has had any share in such treatment, cannot so readily be ascertained; but certain it is, that every age has concurred in contriving by all possible means to confuse, confound and deform the works of those ingenious people; nor is the celebrated structure now mentioned without examples of such usage, the more modern Goths have disfigured it in the most shameful manner, with such things as might well enough become a Lord Mayor's shew, but are in this place both mean and contemptible, every one who has seen this chapel will know that the deformities complained of are those skull caps, swords and banners which are so plentifully strung all over the place, and which, exclusive of spoiling the effect of the building, serve only to convey the idea of a place inhabited by scourers, who usually hang out a variety of tawdry suits and rags upon poles, which serve the double purposes of drying them and proclaiming to the world the profession of the person who thus exposes them to view.

It is easily perceived, that the two fronts of the building, called The Horse-Guards, at Whitehall, are the designs of different people; it is said, that Kent made that next the Park, in which however there is nothing extraordinary, and it should seem that nobody cares to own the other, which shews, that whoever designed it, was a man of great prudence, though he had no kind of merit as an architect; indeed it is impossible that any thing can be worse, it is not in the least adapted to its intended use, for the entrances to the interior courts are so very small, that a single trooper can hardly get in or out. The principal entrance into the park is so notoriously mean and pitiful, that it would be only losing time

time to make any further mention of it. The foundation of this building ought to have been raised five or six feet, the dampness of which demanded such an help, which is plain from the necessity of a contrivance which has been since made to keep the tide out, of this the builders could not be ignorant while at work upon the foundation, because the water came into the works every tide; however, instead of raising the foundation, they very wisely, after the building was compleated, took away a vast deal of ground from the Parade, in order to give the structure, an air of elevation, which it evidently wanted, and ever must want while the building remains, and consequently made that part of the ground lower which was already too low. Perhaps it would have been better to have raised the foundation as before mentioned, and to have formed the whole by two large squares of three sides each, one to front the park, and the other the street, with piazzas all round, for the convenience of the soldiers in bad weather. In the center of these two squares, which ought to have extended the whole width of the Parade, a capital entrance might have been formed in the stile of a triumphal arch, of a proper heighth and magnitude suited to the nature of the place; there might have been two spacious quadrangles, one on each side large enough to have drawn up the Guards within, and not in the open street, which, being so great a thoroughfare, is an inconvenience that ought to be remedied. These quadrangles might have contained suttling houses, by which means those nuisances of provisions, which are sold to the soldiers, would have been prevented from making their appearance in the street, and deforming it, which is at present the constant practice. The buildings surrounding the quadrangles might have been applied to the use of some publick offices, and there might have been room found for a military academy and other uses; it is presumed, this design would have produced a noble object to the park and street, and have been suitable to its use and situation.

As to the interior parts of this building, they are worse, if possible, than the exterior, the windows of some of the lower apartments are contrived in such a manner, that the light, instead of coming

coming from the top of the room, is admitted at the bottom; the head of a man is even with the top of the windows, this consequently produces a large heavy space from the upper part of the sash to the cieling, which conveys a gloominess to the whole apartment: Indeed, most of the modern buildings are of this cast, and within have rather the appearance of dungeons than of houses, instead of conveying cheerful ideas by giving light, they rather convey those of subterranean caverns; this is occasioned by the unaccountable practice of making the openings of the windows so very small, that they more resemble port-holes than openings for the admission of light. By this, houses are made melancholy, which certainly is a great impropriety in this country, where the weather is for half the year dull enough; certainly a cheerful looking house, in some measure, contributes to make those who inhabit it so; it is an easy matter to shut out light, if too much has been given, but it is not so easy to give more when too little has been provided.

It is rather surprising, that the proper enlightening of houses has not been more attended to. It does not wholly depend upon the openings of windows, but, in some degree; on situation whether high or low, and if in towns, whether the streets are wide or narrow; there is also a difference produced by the aspect of the windows. Another error which contributes towards making rooms dark, is the making them too deep, whereas they should be rather wide, and the worst of all is, that of dropping the windows too low from the cieling, to which is often afterwards added a festoon-curtain, which is effectually making bad worse; and spoils the finishing of an elegant room. In short, where it can be done, as in the forming of new streets, regard should be had to the height of the intended buildings, allowing space enough to give a free admission to the light, that is, such a width as would allow the sky to be seen from the windows of the lower apartments over the tops of the opposite houses *.

If

* No street should be narrower than where two carriages may conveniently pass, with proper foot-paths on each side, and if the heights of houses were regulated it would be an advantage both in respect to light and appearance. The elevation of

If the windows in modern houses are ill contrived the entrances to them are equally bad. Formerly a nobleman's house was marked by a large entrance, and the decorations generally proclaimed to whom it belonged; but modern taste allows no such thing, it is now become the fashion not to make the least distinction between the doors and the windows, and it is not without difficulty the way into such a house can be found, an instance of this sort is notorious in the design of a house not long since finished for a person of great distinction, but there are numberless others of this sort to be met with in London.

As nothing but the universality of bad taste could possibly give countenance to the foregoing errors, it is not very much to be wondered at, that such a variety of absurdities are produced in building, dress, equipage and furniture *. The descriptions given by travellers of the buildings, habits, customs and manners of distant climes, if they are well written, and assisted with lineal representations, are sufficient surely to satisfy a curious enquiring mind in all those particulars, without running into the absurdity of putting them in practice in a climate rendered by nature totally unfit for their introduction; it is certainly ridiculous for the English to adopt the Chinese manner of building, but Chinese buildings have for some time past been introduced with success, and it would be no great matter of wonder, should it continue much longer in vogue, if we should adopt their dress also, in that case we might hope to see the Park and publick gardens crowded with mandarines, and a particular order of Ladies carried about by Chinese porters, who, as is the custom in that country, might proclaim their occupation. With the utmost respect to the taste of the English

buildings that form the streets might be made elegant and uniform, though with great variety, and any number of windows given to a house. The new manner of paving gives a determined and regular line to build from.

* Perhaps the bad taste which at present prevails in furniture is chiefly owing to the practice of employing the persons who build houses to furnish them, this is very commonly done, but surely it cannot be expected that people who have no taste in building should have any in decoration, in fact it is beneath the profession of an architect to undertake the several professions of a cabinet maker, upholsterer, brasier, &c. these are distinct employments, and by no means his proper business, so far as the mere designing part is concerned, it may be allowable; to design and superintend ought to be his sole business.

Ladies,

Ladies, nothing can be more trifling or ridiculous than to see a modern chimney-piece set out with josses and such horrid monsters, which can have no other charms to recommend them than deformity, a high price, and their being the production of a very remote country. The passion for incongruity, falsely termed variety, and for impropriety, as falsely called taste, has induced a gentleman of fortune to make four islands in a piece of water in his garden, in each of these are erected buildings, (it is presumed they are called temples) one of them is Chinese, another Egyptian, a third is Turkish, and the fourth Roman, and to compleat the absurdity, this elegant hodge-podge is so contrived as to be seen at one view. Certainly this is a childish taste, and extremely unbecoming the character of the English nation, who are esteemed by foreigners as a grave philosophic people, they must certainly laugh when they see us thus servilely and ridiculously adopting the customs and manners of other countries. It would undoubtedly be truly absurd and ridiculous, if because it is the custom for Indians to wear bobs in their noses we should also wear them in ours, and indeed it would be pleasant enough to hear and see our publick orators snuffling out their harangues through the encumbrance of so elegant a foreign ornament.

The great number of hospitals and burying-grounds or church-yards in this metropolis are extremely disagreeable, and ought by all means to be banished to proper places at a convenient distance from it.

There is no doubt but several objections will be made to many of the proposals for the publick advantage, which take up a great part of the foregoing work, more especially those which relate to the city, to which it can only be answered, *the greater will be the misfortune*, and the author can only console himself with the reflexion, that many persons have met with as little regard as himself in proposals of a similar nature. He cannot have more reason to complain than others, the citizens rejected Sir Christopher Wren's noble plan, and ruined the disposition of the city. They petitioned

against the new bridge at Westminster, but did not succeed, and against that at Black-Fryars, with the same success. They did the same against the intended street opposite the Mansion-House, and unfortunately succeeded. They attempted to hinder the repairs of London Bridge, and were again unfortunate, and some among them have strenuously argued against the best scheme that ever was thought of for the improvement of any city, that for paving, lighting and cleansing the streets like those of Westminster, but happily without effect. However it is to be hoped that the age will grow wiser by degrees, and that they will learn to take every opportunity for the future to promote the publick good.

O M I S S I O N S .

Conduit-Street is opened into Carnaby-Market and Marlborough-Street.

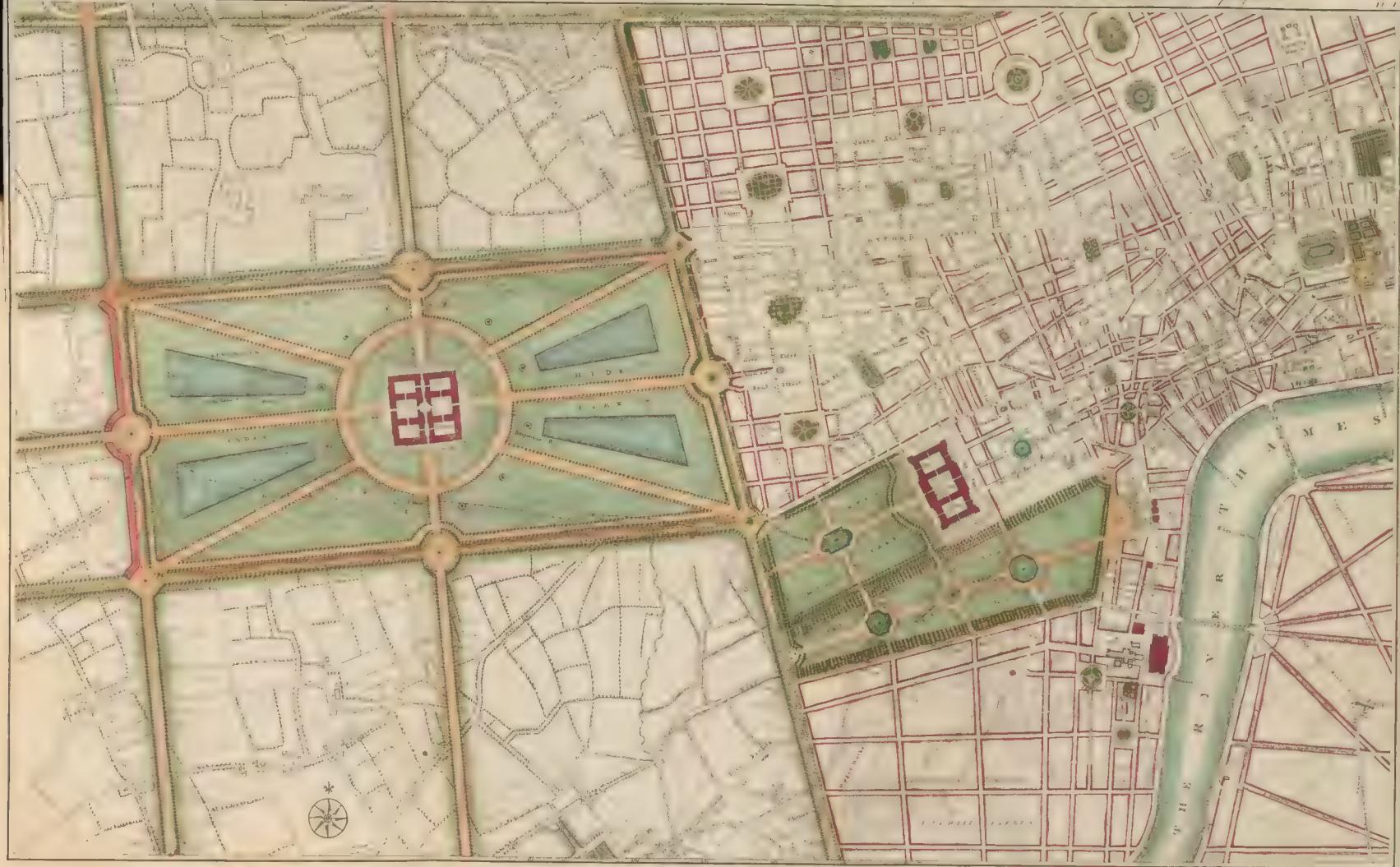
Vine-Street is continued into Piccadilly.

If the proposal of Windmill-Street, &c. should take place, the market for hay, now a nuisance to the neighbourhood, should be removed to some more convenient spot for the purpose, as it would become a much greater thoroughfare than it is at present.

As farther improvements, to those already offered, relative to Tower-Hill, a handsome stone parapet, balustrade, or iron rail, should be erected all round the outward line of the ditch, instead of those mean wooden ones, that are now there, which are ever subject to decay, and by their weakness and frequent want of repair, have often proved fatal to many. That the ditch should be always kept clean and covered with water, and the whole surface of the hill, be properly levelled. These improvements would certainly be very useful and commodious, as well to the publick as the inhabitants, and make one of the noblest openings about London, and be of considerable consequence and advantage to the proprietors of the several buildings that surround the hill, most of which at present are of little value.

F I N I S .

A PLAN of HYDE PARK with the CITY and LIBERTIES of WESTMINSTER &c. shewing the several IMPROVEMENTS made



Back of
Foldout
Not Imaged

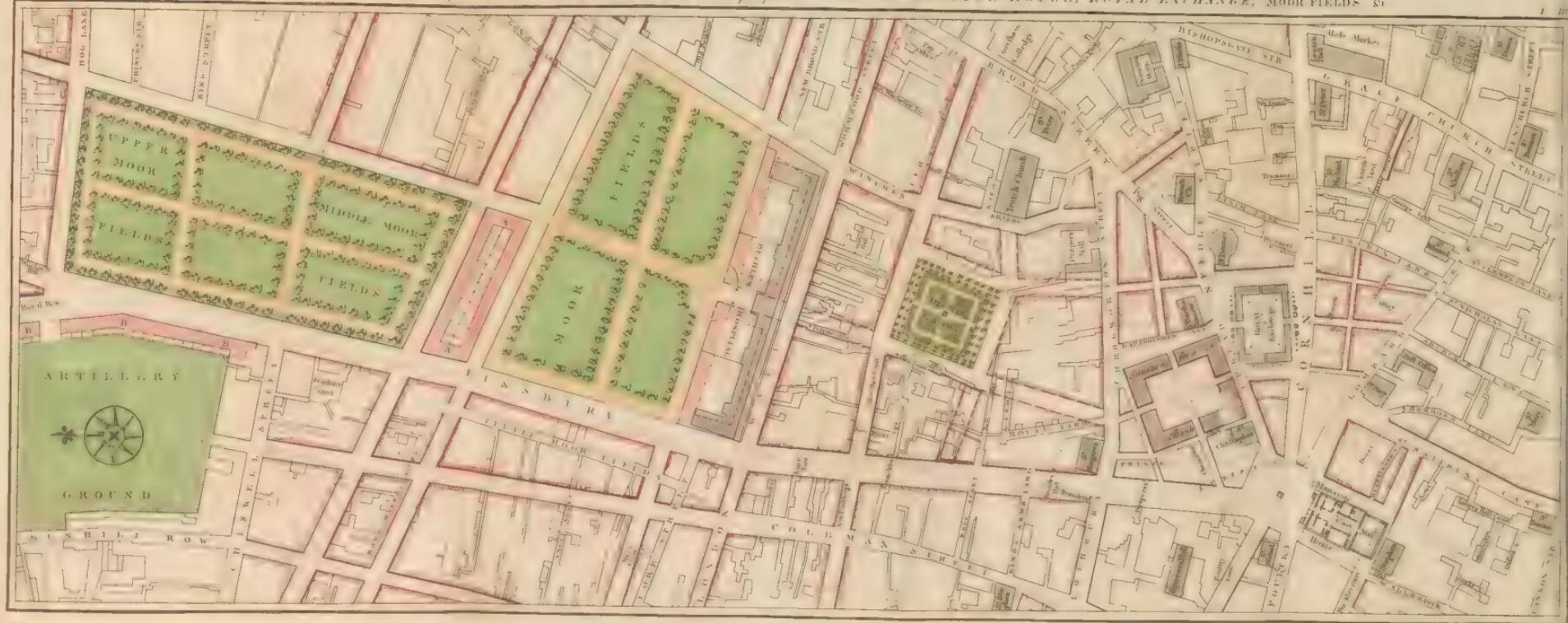
DEPARTMENT OF WESTMINSTER at Large, about the IMPROVEMENTS proposed about LEICESTER FIELD, COVENT GARDEN & NEWSEY.

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PART OF LONDON showing the IMPROVEMENTS proposed about the MANSION-HOUSE, ROYAL-EXCHANGE, MOORFIELDS &c.

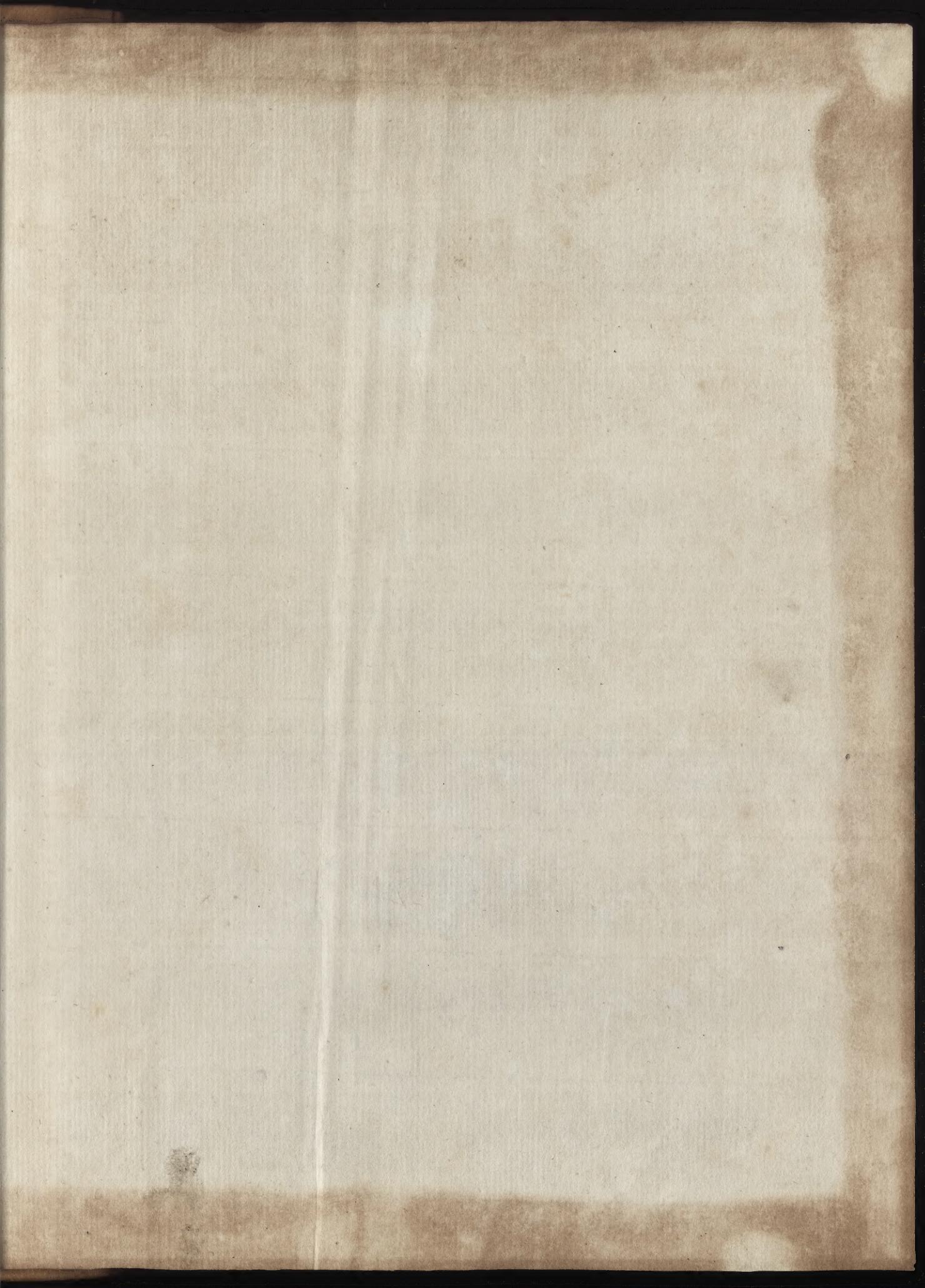


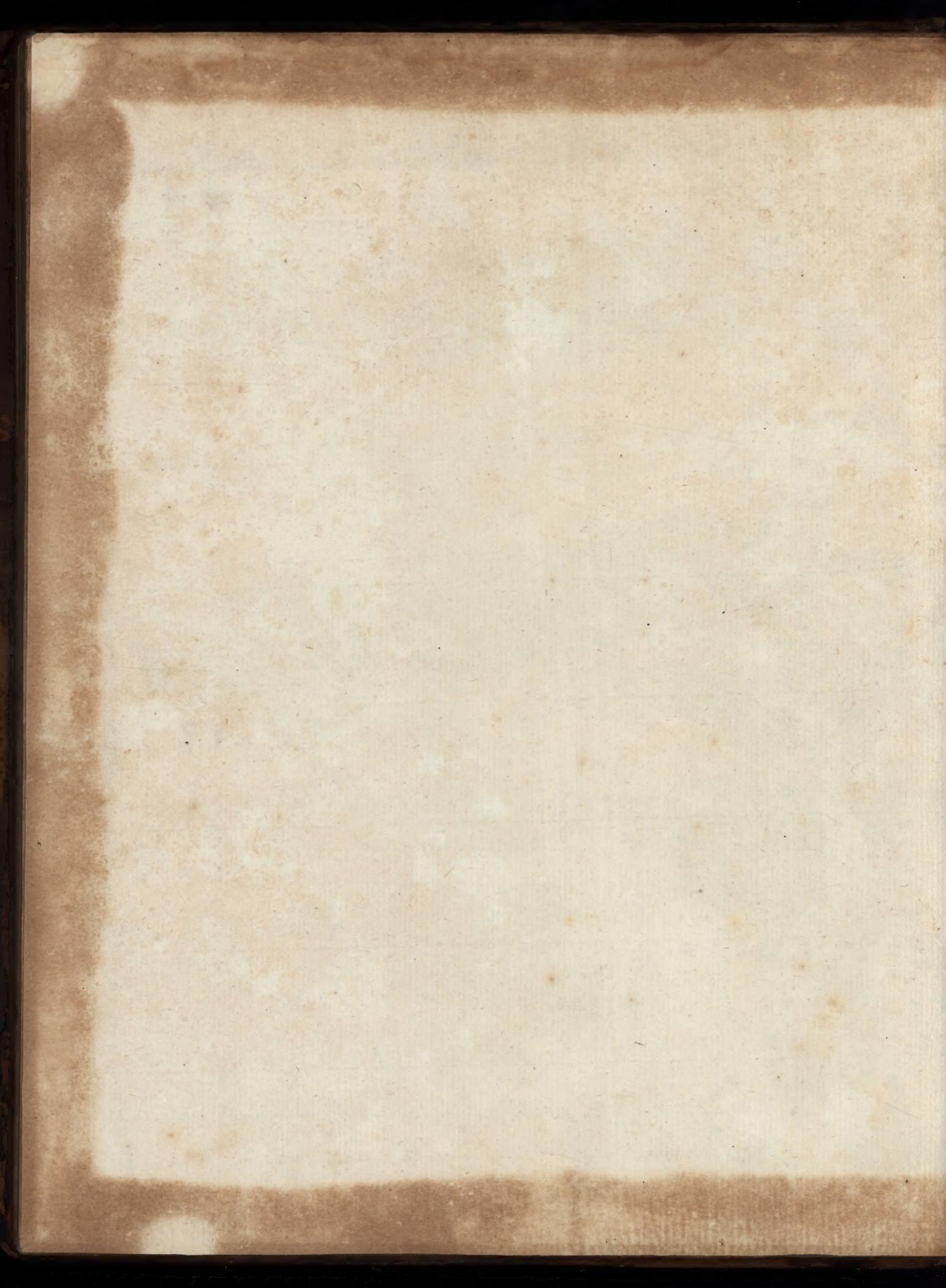
Back of
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PLATE NO. LONDON showing the IMPROVEMENTS proposed about LONDON-BRIDGE, the CUSTOM-HOUSE, TOWER &c



Back of
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SPECIAL 85-B
15022

